

Hafa Adai!

Robert Hunter is Torres' new senior policy adviser. **PAGE 2**
Quarantine facilities, COVID-19 measures beefed up. **PAGE 3**

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EDITORIAL

Protesting injustice is your sacred right as an American



Mount Carmel School president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero holds up a banner during a "Black Lives Matter" protest at the Atkins-Kroll intersection in San Jose last Tuesday.

BEA CABRERA

Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or the rights of the people to peaceably assemble or "to petition the government for a redress of grievances." These crucial First Amendment protections also limit state government action, thanks to the 14th Amendment, and embody essential values that created and have sustained this nation: People can, should and will protest against perceived injustice.

That's a principle with special resonance today, as the nation witnesses angry protests over the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and similar injustices directed at African Americans and others relegated to second-class status in our society. The demonstrations come amid a movement by state lawmakers to falsely equate lawful protest and civil dis-

See **PROTESTING** on Page 4

IN ANTICIPATION OF JULY 15 REOPENING OF CNMI CPA readying action plan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

In anticipation of the July 15 target date to reopen the CNMI to tourists, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is busy putting together an action plan to implement certain public health precautionary measures.

The action plan, according to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds yesterday, is not just for the safety of their employees but for the traveling public as well. That includes installing plexiglass dividers, putting in place disinfection processes that will be done regularly, and providing hand sanitizers.

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Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds discusses an issue during the CPA board committees' meeting yesterday at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting classroom at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

SSHS student is finalist in nat'l civics contest

Richard Baleares of Saipan Southern High School on Saipan has been named a finalist in the national 2020 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest for high school students.

Baleares, who was named the winner of the local leg of the contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands, joined nearly 1,000 young people who entered the

contest for high school students in the western United States, Guam and the CNMI. The contest was composed of an essay writing competition and a video competition. Baleares won the video contest.

In Guam, the finalists are the winners of the contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Guam, which offered prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 for the

top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions.

The essay winners are: first place, Jenny Mann, of St. Johns School in Tumon; second place, Raemier Javelosa of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam in Hagåtña; and third place, Lian Tsiao, also of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam. The winners of the video competition are:

See **SSHS** on Page 4

Antibody testing not yet recommended

By **BEA CABRERA**
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CORRESPONDENT

A severe case of flu went the rounds in the CNMI in December last year and many are now wondering if it were all-
See **ANTIBODY** on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 3, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	177	0	177
Recovered	147	4	151
Active	25	-4	21
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			6,345

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	23	0	23
Recovered	16	0	16
Active	5	0	5
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**			6,557

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

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BUSINESS

Bank of Guam is pleased to announce its five IFIT Scholars for the year 2020.

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NATION

President Donald Trump appeared to be privately backing off his threat to deploy troops.

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WORLD

United Kingdom stands ready to open the door to almost 3 million Hong Kong citizens.

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Local

Robert Hunter is Torres' new senior policy adviser

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert H. Hunter will be assuming a new role as senior policy adviser to the governor.

At the press briefing Wednesday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced that Hunter will be his senior policy adviser, as well as be his "right hand" in addressing policies in the CNMI. The governor also said that Hunter will continue helping out on all the concerns

and activities of the DCCA.

"Obviously, he's going to be in a more personal matter with me on activities surrounding the CNMI, all the issues. ... But I do know that when I spoke to him, his heart has always been with DCCA and that's not going anywhere. He'll still be with DCCA," Torres added.

The governor said that there are a lot of projects that Hunter has worked on and continues to work on, including the Economic Development Administration funding and grants, and

that Hunter will still work on those, as well as on other issues in other departments.

Hunter, who said he is looking at his new role as "an opportunity to move on to tackle other problems," thanked Torres for the "new opportunity" and cited the strides that have already been made. "We bring in about four times more in grant funding than we did four years ago. I think we're hovering around \$15 million this year," Hunter said.

"I've spent 18 years now working in various capaci-

ties of the DCCA. It is an important department, in many ways, and one that's really close to my heart. I think we really turned the DCCA around in a big way, for both the employees there and where our services are concerned."

As for funding, the governor said that Hunter's new role will be covered with federal funding and won't cost the CNMI government. "I will not spend more than what my appropriation is to the governor's account," Torres stressed.

Aside from being the DCCA

chief since 2016, Hunter also served as director of the NMI Museum of History and Culture, executive director of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, and as an Arts Program manager for the CNMI Public School System.

"Secretary Hunter has made DCCA a more efficient and responsive agency that has improved its resource management and streamlined better social services for our

people. He will continue to assist DCCA in his new role as senior policy [adviser], but he will also work on addressing our other policy priorities around the government. Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I are confident that he will serve our Commonwealth well moving forward," Torres added.

Hunter will continue overseeing DCCA until an acting secretary is designated.

49 economic injury disaster loans totaling \$3.2M are OK'd in the NMI

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. The deadline to apply is Dec. 21, 2020.

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved over 700,000 economic injury disaster loans nationwide, totaling \$55 billion. In the Northern Marianas, 49 loans have been approved as of May 30, with the amount totaling \$3,282,800.

SBA is providing the low-interest federal disaster loan as working capital for small businesses in the CNMI that have been substantially hit due to COVID-19. Up to \$2 million in economic injury disaster loan may be availed of by qualified small businesses, private non-profit organizations, small agricultural cooperatives, and small aquaculture enterprises impacted by the pandemic since Jan. 31, 2020, to help with their operating expenses.

To avail of the economic injury disaster loan, small businesses may apply online, or download applications at

As for loans under the Paycheck Protection Program, SBA has approved 360 loans in the CNMI, totaling \$36,013,357. This is part of the 4.4 million loans, totaling \$511 billion approved by SBA nationwide, the latest as of May 23.

SBA's Paycheck Protection Program helps small businesses affected by the COVID-19 keep their employees. Announced in mid-April, the program provides eligible employers the opportunity to receive a federally-guaranteed loan to cover all of the cost, provided they keep all their employees on payroll for up to eight weeks.

Money from the program can also be used by small businesses to pay rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. Loan payments will also be deferred for six months, and no collateral or personal guarantees are required.

AT YELLOW LEVEL:

Restaurants can't operate as bars

Restaurants, now open, and with permits to serve alcohol are reminded to guide patrons to order meals, otherwise, or they may be taken as operating as a bar.

Bars are still not permitted to operate with CNMI under the Yellow level vulnerability scale.

Further, restaurants which have attached bars should not allow guests to sit at the attached bar until such time that bars are allowed to operate.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. reiterates that during level Yellow, bars are to remain closed, while restaurants may open for dine-in at 25% of originally permitted occupancy.

"Restaurants [that] hold a

permit to serve alcohol may continue to do so; however, any restaurant serving food only incidental to the consumption of alcohol may be construed to be operating as a bar...which are not allowed

to operate at this time," said a CHCC advisory.

To make certain that their restaurant is not operating as a

bar, managers and owners are recommended to guide patrons to order meals, and not only alcoholic beverages, while at the restaurant.

Restaurants that will be found to be non-compliant may be closed.

Individuals who believe a restaurant is operating out of compliance with the rules, you may contact 664-4677 to alert regulators. (Iva Maurin)

Delegate, 34 other posts up for grabs on Nov. 3

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The position for the U.S. delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives and 34 other government positions, excluding three from the Judiciary for retention, are up for grabs in the coming general election on Nov. 3.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita Villagomez said yesterday that they are prepared for the coming general election, which used to be called

mid-term election.

Jesus Sablan is the current CEC board chairman. There are five other commissioners.

Villagomez said July 6 is the first day for submission of nominating petition and candidacy and also the last day to establish residency requirements.

The top seat for the coming election is the U.S. delegate to the House of Representatives, a position that has been held by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) since he was

elected in 2008.

For the CNMI House of Representatives, precincts 1 and 3 will have six slots up for grabs; precincts 2, 4, and 5 will each have two vacant positions; and Rota and Tinian will have one each.

For the CNMI Senate, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will each have one position up for grabs. For the Board of Education, Saipan and Rota both have one vacant seat each. For the Municipal Council, three seats are available each for

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, and Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo will be up for retention election. Villagomez said all three have notified CEC of their intent to serve additional terms on the bench.

Under a constitutional amendment, the question of whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.



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IN ANTICIPATION OF THE CNMI REOPENING

Quarantine facilities, COVID-19 measures beefed up

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

As flights continue to bring home residents to the CNMI, and eventually tourists starting July 15, the government is ramping up efforts to ensure there would be enough quarantine sites for the possible influx of passengers, as well as new testing and quarantine protocols.

At the moment, the CNMI has the Kanoa Resort, with 224 rooms and serving as an isolation facility for confirmed cases and persons under investigations; and Pacific Islands Club Saipan, with its 308 rooms, as a quarantine facility for all arriving passengers.

The island also only has 23 COVID-19 recorded cases, the latest of which was reported last Tuesday, an inbound medical referral returning resident, coming from the U.S. mainland.

Should United Airlines start bringing in 160 passengers every flight, the island would possibly be needing more than just PIC as a quarantine facility. The empty Mariana Resort & Spa in the north is one of the sites being looked at.

"We do have Mariana... Resort as also an option,"

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said in an interview. "No governor in the [United States], or in the territories or insular areas, have the authority to suspend flights, especially international flights. We are also looking at other protocols, because we want to reopen the travel and our tourist industry," he said. "Eventually, we will be having a different protocol regarding testing and quarantine. My set of order ends on June 15. We've been talking with the hospital, [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.], the [Governor's COVID-19] Task Force, and other entities, [Commonwealth Ports Authority], on how do we address increase number of returning residents, as well as tourism."

Preparing

Based on an earlier projection by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, COVID-19 cases in the CNMI was expected to hit 6,000 mid-May, and peak at as high as 8,000 in mid-June. FEMA also estimated that 3,000 would have died if mitigation measures were not implemented. With 23 COVID-19 cases overall and just five active cases

and two deaths to date, the CNMI is way below the projected surge.

As early as January, the CNMI has been treating COVID-19 on a high-risk approach, even with zero cases at that time. There are now 1.8 million COVID-19 cases in the United States, with over 100,000 deaths.

"The worst thing that we can have is for the government, the hospital, the task force to not take this seriously and not be prepared. If that surge hits and we're not prepared, our people will die," Torres said.

CHCC's community-based testing has collected almost 6,000 specimens, more medical equipment and supplies are expected to come in from California over the weekend, and the Alternative Care Site at Kanoa Resort is expected to open in the next few weeks.

"We hope we never get to use it, and I've said that, and I want the same thing with the MCAT [40-bed Medical Care and Treatment Facility at the Commonwealth Health Center]. I hope that we never get to use it. But if that surge does come here, we are prepared for it. We have enough

PPEs here for every nurse, every doctor, every first responder, government employees," said Torres.

Continue the vigilance

Torres credits the community's vigilance as a big reason for the low number of COVID-19 case in the CNMI. "Our community is awesome. We have an excellent community. Everybody has stepped up, one way or another. We are

moving into finally finding the new norm," he said.

As measures to lessen the threat of COVID-19 in the CNMI are strengthened in preparation for returning residents and the reopening of the CNMI's borders to tourists, the governor is calling on everyone to remain vigilant, keep up with social distancing and sanitation, and get tested for COVID-19.

"Patience now is what we

need as we move forward. I ask that we continue the community-based testing. Please come out and get tested. That is one way for us to know where we stand in healthcare in the CNMI," he said. "We're doing a great job, all of us. So let's continue to be vigilant, encourage our community-based testing, and let's move forward and continue the progress."

Over 12K test kits reserved for PSS

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has reserved over 12,000 COVID-19 test kits for Public School System students, in line with the planned reopening of schools in September.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is therefore encouraging PSS teachers, staff, and students to get tested for COVID-19 since there are enough test kits reserved for them. "We encourage our PSS family—over 1,000 to 11,000 faculty, teachers, staff, and students—to get tested. This is to give safety to our students before they go to school, so we encourage them to get tested," he said.

Torres said CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task

Force will have these kits reserved and readily available for PSS staff and students and a specific time for testing may even be arranged for this group.

"We will have these 12,000 test kits reserved for them at any time they want to roll out and schedule. We might even have specific times for them because they have [a large] number of students, faculty, and staff," he said.

Additionally, Torres said, CHCC and the task force are also more than willing to reserve test kits for private schools and the Northern Marianas College. "We are reserving to make sure, and that's just for PSS. We are also willing to reserve separate test kits for our private school students and NMC. ... We want to make sure that we have

enough test kits for everyone. We have 60,000 and if we have to order more, we have that relationship," he said.

During a previous Board of Education meeting, board members raised concerns about reopening schools in September. One of the concerns was how and if COVID-19 testing would be required of students and staff tested for prior to the reopening. BOE member Marylou Ada also raised concerns about how PSS would address the sanitation and disinfection of classrooms.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said that reopening schools in September is still tentative as PSS is awaiting guidelines from the Governor's Task Force and CHCC and additional updates on the current pandemic.

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FEMA obligates 29 of 39 PSS projects

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has obligated or authorized 29 of 39 Public School System projects, but PSS has been unable to start work on these projects as it does not have the funds to cover the 10% cost share.

According to Charley Kenty, PSS associate commissioner for administrative services, 29 of the 39 projects that were listed by FEMA are ready to be started.

“As far as project and grants, were working closely with the Public Assistance Office to get these projects going. Of the 39 projects we have listed by FEMA, they have obligated 29 of them, meaning they are ready for us to begin the work,” he said.

However, one of the main reasons PSS hasn’t begun working on these projects is because PSS has to come up with 10% of the money needed for the projects—its cost share.

“One of the reasons why we weren’t able to get this started earlier is because it requires us to come up with a 10% cost share,” he said.

Fortunately, Kenty said, as of last week, PSS has received grant funding from other sources and will be able to proceed soon.

Board of Education vice chair Herman Atalig told PSS administration to prioritize these 29 projects and get them going, since these projects ensure quality learning facilities for CNMI students.

As for FEMA reimbursements from Super Typhoon Yutu, Kenty reported that FEMA has not completed their review and reimbursements are not coming out anytime soon.

“We did follow up with the FEMA office for Super Typhoon Yutu and the \$1.8 million that is still under review. They haven’t completed the review so we aren’t seeing any reimbursement anytime this month,” he said.

As for reimbursements from Typhoon Mangkhut, PSS is working with FEMA to identify any required documents to get it approved. “For Typhoon Mangkhut, we are working on identifying documents needed if there are required documents needed and we will get that done,” he said. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

SSHS

From Page 1

first place, the team of Putra Sani and James Tabunar of George Washington High School in Mangilao; second place, Shawn Gatchell of Guam High School in Hagåtña; and third place, Joseph Vinch, also of Guam High School.

“The Right to Vote: Milestone Anniversaries” was the theme of the contest. Students in grades 9-12 in public, private and parochial schools and homeschooled students of equivalent grade status were challenged to write an essay or produce a short video with the questions: “In the wake of the 15th and 19th Amendments, barriers remained to prevent United States citizens from voting. Do formal or informal barriers remain today? What additional changes would you make, if any, to Americans’ voting rights?”

Fifteen federal courts in the Ninth Circuit held local contests with winners advancing to the final round to compete in the circuit-wide competition. In all, 38 essays and 27 videos were selected to advance to the next round for consideration by judges, attorneys, court executives, law clerks, court and library staff, and the Public Information and Community Outreach Committee, which will announce the winners in late June.

Preliminary judging has been completed in the contest. At the circuit level, prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 will be awarded to first-, second- and third place winners in both the writing and video competition.

“The Ninth Circuit’s longstanding commitment to civics education is showcased in this year’s 2020 contest. Because our circuit is the largest and busiest in the nation, it is gratifying that so many judges, administrators and attorneys gave

generously of their time to contribute to the contest. These individuals helped to organize, promote, administer and judge the contest,” said U.S. District Judge Janis L. Sammartino of San Diego, who chairs the PICO Committee. “Students found themselves in the midst of transitioning to remote learning and yet still made the effort to focus on the legal issues posed by the contest. Despite these challenging circumstances, this year’s contest did not disappoint. The quality of essays and videos and the level of participation were excellent. Students examined legal principles, made thoughtful analyses and exhibited insights into our legal system and our constitutional democracy,” Sammartino added.

The Ninth Circuit covers the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, the U.S. territory of Guam and the CNMI. **(PR)**

PROTESTING

From Page 1

obedience with crime and terrorism. These chilling moves against fundamental liberties must not stand.

A May report from PEN America, an organization dedicated to literature, human rights and free expression, documents 82 state bills considered or adopted by 32 states to criminalize assembly and speech. One of the offending states, as it happens, is Minnesota. Lawmakers there appear motivated by environmental protests in neighboring North Dakota and Black Lives Matter protests in their own state.

One such instance followed the police killing of a young African American man named Jamar Clark in November 2015. Turned back from a planned protest at a shopping mall, demonstrators temporarily disrupted traffic at the Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport.

Minnesota lawmakers responded with a bill to punish traffic obstruction with up to a year in prison—an astonishingly excessive term far out of proportion to the offense. Blocking traffic is of course already prohibited in Minnesota and elsewhere, and protesters who march onto airport roads or freeways can expect to face legal consequences. But it is a non-violent act of civil disobedience, and the temporary inconvenience it poses to drivers does not warrant the kind

of penalty generally reserved for serious criminals. According to PEN, the bill’s sponsor, Rep. Nick Zerwas, acknowledged that the purpose was dissuade potential protesters. The measure was passed but vetoed by the governor.

A separate Minnesota bill to criminalize protests against “critical infrastructure” was inspired by the 2016 demonstrations against the Dakota Access Pipeline through the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota. So-called critical infrastructure bills in other states penalize protests on or near railroad tracks or telephone poles. A Kentucky bill carries a sentence of up to five years. Those proposals stalled.

“Under such statutes,” PEN reports, “a protester who merely crosses onto land hosting a pipeline could be held criminally liable.”

One of the more chilling provisions of anti-protest laws considered in several states would impose criminal liability for property damage caused by others participating in the same action. A person joining a protest but causing no damage could be held liable for up to \$1 million for damage caused by others.

Other bills give police greater leeway to characterize protests as “riots” and to charge peaceful protesters with rioting because of the actions of others in their presence. A New Jersey bill, if passed, would have imposed up to five years in prison for participating in a protest in which any other person caused damage

of more than \$2,000.

That would have categorized protesters against the brutal killing of George Floyd as rioters, not because of any act they committed, but because they expressed their dissent at the same time or in the same place as violent lawbreakers.

“One person’s decision to resort to violence does not strip other protesters of their right to freedom of peaceful assembly,” as PEN quotes United Nations special rapporteurs for freedom of expression and assembly. “This right is not a collective right; it is held by each of us individually.”

Other proposals seek to turn protesters into terrorists. A North Carolina bill, for example, would create the crime of “economic terrorism” and permits prosecution against any person who has committed obstruction with the intention to influence government action.

In other words, an act of temporary civil disobedience would be an act of terrorism. Such a law would make Susan B. Anthony a terrorist for pushing a ballot into a ballot box. It would make other American heroes terrorists for taking a seat on a bus or at a lunch counter, walking across a bridge, stopping work or doing any of the other things that have won Americans some of their most cherished rights and liberties. Watch out for attempts to intimidate people who would protest the gap between what we know to be legal and what we know to be just.

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CPA

From Page 1

Speaking during a break in a CPA board committees’ meeting yesterday at the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting classroom at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, King-Hinds said they will also be implementing measures to ensure that people who are coming through the airport will practice social distancing.

During the meeting itself, King-Hinds pointed out that whether or not the CNMI will be able to welcome international arrivals is still unknown to CPA at this point. “But when it does and if it does happen, CPA needs to have a plan in place and certain safeguards implemented to ensure the safety not only of the traveling public but our employees,” said King-Hinds.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio disclosed that CPA has a mitigation action plan, the draft of which they provided to board members. Tenorio said the team will do a PowerPoint presentation about the action plan during another committee meeting, probably by next week.

“We’re actually doing everything to start preparing for the flights, for the July 15 arrivals,” he said.

Right now, CPA has hired a company to install plexiglass dividers at all

counters, holding room, Customs area, and at the Customs and Border Protection section of the airport, Tenorio said.

For the safety of the CPA staff, Tenorio said, they are also installing plexiglass dividers at the accounting and administration offices. He said they also hired a company to create and install markers and signages to inform arriving passengers to maintain social distancing.

“Hopefully, by next week, we [will] start putting everything up,” he said.

Tenorio also disclosed that the Federal Aviation Administration will be providing facial masks to all airports: 24,500 pieces for Saipan, 5,000 for Tinian, and 2,500 for Rota. Those facial masks will be coming in the next two weeks, he added.

According to its draft action plan, CPA aims to minimize the potential adverse health impact of COVID-19 by slowing the spread of the disease in the CNMI and at its ports and minimizing COVID-19’s impact on the CNMI economy by maintaining trust and confidence among its airport partners and the traveling public. CPA said they are dedicated to providing safe, clean, and secure airports for passengers, employees, and tenants by implementing best practices for safety and economic recovery at the airports.

ANTIBODY

From Page 1

ready COVID-19 infections that did not manifest fully. Which now raises the question: Will antibody test kits be also made available in the CNMI, on top of the mass testing that’s already taking place?

The quick response to that is, no, antibody testing is not yet recommended in the CNMI, at least at this time, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña.

Speaking yesterday as one of the guests during a “virtual” general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Muña said, “There are ongoing studies about it and, so far what has been given by the ‘emergency use authorization’ (an authority granted to the Food and Drug Administration), antibody tests kits are not 100% accurate,” she said.

Antibody test kits check if someone was recently infected by COVID-19 after they have recovered from the disease and recognizes COVID-19 antibodies in your blood, guaranteeing zero reinfection.

Muña said that requiring people to undergo antibody testing to check if they are immune to COVID-19 infection or that they already had it can be “problematic” in terms of public health.

“According to the findings of the FDA, antibody testing have 50% to 75% accuracy level. ... So at this point, we can use it but it has to be done usually in consultation with the medical staff. Right now, the... [COVID-19 test kits available in the CNMI] are actually useful for us right now because they look for current infections,” she added.

The meeting, which happened online after two months of hiatus due to COVID-19 concerns, also featured Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who told

the business community that in the event that CHCC and the COVID-19 Task Force needs antibody test kits, it can be something that the CNMI can do moving forward. “We know the importance of having test kits here. Do community-base testing and this is the route that we want to do first,” he said. “I’m sure that [antibody test kits] is a route moving forward but we need to know first what is available out there and source that out,” he said.

He said the decision to acquire COVID-19 test kits a couple of months ago was borne out of his partnership with Muña and COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez.

Code Blue

The CNMI is currently under community vulnerability scale Yellow, which eased many restrictions, allowing restaurants to partially open, shortening curfew hours from 11pm to 5am and extending business hours from 5am to 10pm.

According to Torres, he has been working with the Governor’s COVID-19 Economic Task Force, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and business leaders in the CNMI in outlining and identifying the economic recovery plan for the CNMI.

“We are now working to get to ‘Code Blue,’ with the support of the business people and employers encouraging all employees to get tested and get a certification for their business to open,” he said.

Torres said that the CNMI’s current Yellow status “is a strong statement about our tourism industry that tourist and visitors will be happy about. When they come here knowing that employees in establishments have been tested, it makes the work environment and them stay safer.”

23 restaurants certified compliant with anti-COVID-19 measures

A total of 23 restaurants are now allowed to offer dine-in services in the CNMI after being inspected and obtaining Bureau of Environmental Health certificates that allow them to do so.

The bureau, which is under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., inspected these establishments and granted them certification of compliance on Monday, June 1, 2020. These inspections were in response to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' latest amendment to the CNMI Emergency Directives of 2020. BEH credited the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for their partnership in planning the certification requirements.

The certificate of compliance is a necessary measure to prepare restaurant and food service workers to deliver safe dining experiences for their customers, while also keeping themselves safe, and boosting consumer confidence to dine out.

Restaurants now certified for compliance during Community Vulnerability Level Yellow are:

- Aiko's Ramen, Susupe
- American Pizza & Grill, Garapan
- Bistro Marianas, Chalan Kanoa
- Canton, Garapan

■ Cha Café & Bistro, Garapan

■ Godfather's Bar (Restaurant Only), Garapan

■ Gold Ribbon, Chalan Piao

■ Latte Café, Garapan

■ McDonald's, Garapan

■ McDonald's, Chalan Lau Lau

■ Naked Fish Bar & Grill (Restaurant Only), Garapan

■ Nam Dae Moon, Garapan

■ Jang Won, Garapan

■ Kinpachi, Garapan

■ Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Oleai

■ Piggy House, Chalan Lau Lau

■ Pepoy's Café, Chalan Kanoa

■ Salty's, Garapan

■ Subway, Gualo Rai

■ Subway, Chalan Piao

■ Surf Club, Chalan Kanoa

■ Zoom Café, Susupe

■ Zoom Chicken, Susupe

Restaurants offering take-out services can operate with valid food handlers and sanitation permits. Restaurants looking to open for dine-in services are required to have additional certification of compliance issued by BEH.

A listing of restaurants open for dine-in service will be updated daily at the CHCC's COVID-19 page on its website chcc.gov.mp.

While bars remain closed in level Yellow, restaurants and

THIS BUSINESS IS COMPLIANT

WITH CNMI COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY LEVEL YELLOW

FOR LIMITED DINE-IN SERVICE

REQUIREMENTS FOR DINE-IN RESTAURANTS IN LEVEL YELLOW

- Restaurants may serve dine-in customers under social distancing parameters and at 25% of their originally permitted occupancy limit. Bars are closed in level yellow.
- Restaurants must require that patrons make reservations to control volume, and maintain records of one point of contact for each party for contact tracing purposes.
- Parties dining in together are limited to no more than 4 people. All parties must remain at least six feet apart, and are encouraged to use outdoor seating whenever possible.
- No self-service food or drinks are allowed, such as buffet style dining or beverage refill stations.

REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTAURANTS AND BARS AT ALL LEVELS. ESTABLISHMENTS MUST:

- Enforce hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and use of a face coverings by employees when near other employees and customers.
- Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hand hygiene practices for both employees and customers.
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks to ensure that customers remain at least six feet apart in queues or ask customers to wait in their cars or away from the establishment while waiting to pick up food.
- Post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, how to properly wash hands, provide notice that no one with symptoms will be permitted inside, and how to properly wear a face covering. See business toolkit at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/coronavirusinformation.php>.
- Post "one-way" flow signs for entrance and "one-way" flow signs for exit to maintain crowd control.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash, rinse, and sanitize all surfaces which come in contact with food after each use.
- Send employees with symptoms home.
- Discontinue preset tables- condiments, utensils, and tableware removed from table.
- Ensure that all staff complete online ServSafe trainings specific to COVID-19 transmission reduction within one week of offering services.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED THAT THIS FACILITY IS OUT OF COMPLIANCE, PLEASE CALL 664-4677

Inspector (print/sign/date): _____ Signature last updated: May 26, 2020

Sanitary Permit #: _____

bars during all community vulnerability levels must adhere to the following:

■ Enforce hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and use of face coverings by employees when near other employees and customers.

■ Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hand hygiene practices for both employees and customers.

■ Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks to ensure that customers remain at least 6 feet apart in queues or ask customers to wait in their cars or away from the establishment while waiting to pick up food.

■ Post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, how to properly wash hands, provide notice that no one with

symptoms will be permitted inside, and how to properly wear a face covering.

■ Sample signage is available for download at <https://www.chcc.gov.mp/coronavirusinformation.php>

■ Post "one-way" flow signs for entrance and "one-way" flow signs for exit to maintain crowd control.

■ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

■ Wash, rinse, and sanitize all surfaces which come in contact with food after each use.

■ Send employees with symptoms home.

■ Discontinue preset tables- condiments, utensils, and tableware removed from table.

■ Ensure that all staff complete online ServSafe trainings specific to COVID-19 transmission reduction within one week of offering services.

Restaurants which offer dine-in services during level Yellow must adhere to the following additional rules:

■ Limit occupancy to 25% of their originally permitted occupancy limit.

■ Require that patrons make reservations to control volume, and maintain records of one point of contact for each party for contact tracing purposes.

■ Limit parties dining in together to no more than four people. All parties must re-


main at least six feet apart, and are encouraged to use outdoor seating whenever possible.

■ Not offer self-service food or drinks, such as buffet style dining or beverage refill stations.

Restaurant owners can request an inspection for compliance certification online at the CHCC's COVID-19 page at chcc.gov.mp or can call the CHCC BEH at 664-4870/2/3 between 7:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Restaurant patrons should look for posted certification of compliance with level Yellow requirements. Valid certificates of compliance are signed by BEH inspectors and include the restaurant's sanitation permit number for reference. If you believe a restaurant is operating out of compliance with the rules, you may contact 664-4677 to alert regulators. The BEH may order an establishment to close if it is found to be non-compliant.

Restaurant patrons should plan to make reservations for dine-in service, limit parties to four people, and respect a 6-foot distance from other parties dining in. CHCC recommends that restaurant patrons choose outdoor seating if it's available, and see if the restaurant will accept food orders ahead of time to reduce your wait time. **(PR)**



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
 P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
 Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6804 • www.marianas.edu

AMENDMENT #1
Building Demolition Project:
Buildings A, A1, B, B1 C, D, E, F, G, H, I, Q, R & S

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 20-0002

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the building demolition project at the NMC Saipan campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packets may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing May 27, 2020 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m.** for the Electronic packet, please send request to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Pre-bid conference is scheduled for June 11, 2020 at 9:00 am. Attendance is strongly recommended. NMC continues to practice social distancing due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. The pre-bid conference and virtual tour will take place through video conference technology, Zoom. Zoom Meeting ID No.: 928 5800 5961

Electronic Bid submissions:
NMCIFB20-0002@marianas.edu
Due Date/Time: 10:00 am, June 19, 2020, Chamorro, Standard Time (ChST).


Hard copies Bid submissions:
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. O, As Terlaje Campus
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, June 19, 2020, (ChST).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through US Department of Education, Emergency Assistance to Institution of Higher Education Grant, award no. P938T190005. Provisions of Public Law 15-95 as amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference, are not available for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
 Procurement & Property Manager



PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to construct the CNMI Sports & Cultural Tourism Enhancement Project in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and/or EO 11990.

The project is located in Susupe along both sides of Beach Road. The project seeks to enhance sports and cultural tourism in the CNMI through renovation and new construction at the main sports facilities and enhancing the cultural site at Civic Center Beach Park on Saipan. The renovation and rehabilitation of the Susupe sports complex comprises renovation of the existing Ada Gym area, a new second story addition to include office/administrative spaces, trainer work areas, conference rooms, public restrooms, visiting coach office spaces, and the construction of a permanent concrete storage building. An Olympic sized pool will be constructed to meet the International Amateur Athletic Federation Standards (IAAF) along with two regulation-sized tennis courts, a pedestrian overpass, concession stand, lighting, sidewalks, storage and locker rooms.

On the Civic Center Beach Park side, the proposed cultural park to be constructed will include a cultural training center with exhibition space, 53 Display Kiosks/Booths, an open-air amphitheater, a training, exhibition and administrative facility, two canoe houses, two beach volleyball courts, restroom facilities, lighting, pathways, benches, signage, landscaping, parking areas and a traditional medicine garden.

The sports tourism segment is 72,378 square meters (778,787 sq. ft.) and the cultural events area consists of 23,301 square meters (250,718 sq. ft.). Project information is available for review at Office of Planning & Development, Office of the Governor, CDA Building Suite 308, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 or by calling 670-488-1221.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer
 Department of Commerce
 Economic Development Administration
 915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
 Seattle, WA 98174
RDimmick@eda.gov

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 pm eastern on July 6, 2020 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

Mayor Atalig's motion to dismiss indictment is denied

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied Tuesday Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig's motion to dismiss the indictment against him. Manglona will issue a written order.

As of press time Tuesday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for the minutes of the hearing.

Efraim Atalig's girlfriend,

Evelyn Atalig, who is his co-defendant in the case, did not join the motion to dismiss.

On Monday, Manglona denied Efraim Atalig's and the U.S. government's joint request to rule on his motion to dismiss the charges against him without holding oral arguments. Manglona cited the importance of the motion for the denial. She pointed out that the parties filed a joint stipula-

tion Monday or less than 24 hours before the hearing, to vacate the hearing and submit the motion on the briefs without any explanation. Instead, Manglona ordered the parties to be prepared for the hearing as scheduled Tuesday.

In their stipulation, Efraim Atalig, through counsel David G. Banes, and the U.S. government, through assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley,

said that both have agreed that oral argument is not necessary, unless the court determines otherwise.

Banes and O'Malley requested the court that the motion be decided on the briefs, declarations, and memoranda of law that were previously filed with the court.

In a separate order on Monday, Manglona granted Efraim Atalig's request to appear telephonically at the motion hearing.

Banes said Efraim Atalig

lives on Rota and traveling to Saipan is difficult to coordinate due to limited flight schedules and the mayor's work schedule.

Efraim Atalig was previously allowed to file his motion to dismiss the indictment under seal.

The jury trial of the Ataligs will commence on Aug. 4, 2020. The trial has already been reset several times for many reasons; the recent one due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The charges against Efraim and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Settlement Fund recovery of \$11.6M from deceased retiree opposed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An administrator of the estate of a now-deceased retiree is opposing the NMI Settlement Fund's claim to recover from the estate \$11,561 in retirement benefits that it claims was an overpayment.

John Albert Benavente, the son and administrator of the estate of his deceased father, Fernando Cepeda Benavente, asked the Superior Court to rule that the Settlement Fund's claim is barred by the statute of limitations, doctrine of laches, or by equitable estoppel.

John Albert Benavente, through counsel Robert T. Torres, said the estate should not be held responsible for mistakes committed by the NMI Settlement Fund, which is the former NMI Retirement Fund.

The Settlement Fund, through counsel Nicole M. Torres-Ripple, asked the court to issue an order finding that because John Benavente failed to notify the Settlement Fund of the 60-day filing deadline, the claim against the estate is timely filed. Torres-Ripple asked the court to issue a finding that the estate improperly rejected the Settlement Fund's

claim, and order the estate to pay the Settlement Fund the entire claim of \$11,561.

The deceased retiree, Fernando Benavente, was an employee of the Fire Department until his retirement in 1991.

In John Benavente's opposition, Torres said the Settlement Fund's claim is riddled with mistake after mistake committed by both the NMI Retirement Fund and NMI Settlement Fund. Torres said the Retirement Fund is responsible for its errors and the Settlement Fund continued and ratified the Retirement Fund's errors by continuing payments.

Torres said Fernando Benavente, and now his surviving spouse, Lorna A. Benavente, have been unfairly prejudiced by the Retirement Fund's and Settlement Fund's miscalculations.

"It is manifestly unjust for the NMI Settlement Fund, after such an unreasonably long delay, to demand that the estate now pay for the mistakes of the NMI Retirement Fund and NMI Settlement Fund," he said.

After Fernando Benavente's retirement in 1991, the Retirement Fund reviewed,

determined, and awarded him pension for his government service in the gross amount of \$907 every 15th and last day of the month, Torres said. On May 7, 2012, the Retirement Fund informed Fernando Benavente that an audit by the internal auditors of the Retirement Fund has revealed the Retirement Fund has incorrectly computed his retirement benefits by giving service credit instead of vetting on Fernando Benavente's accumulated overtime and compensatory hours. That improper calculation allegedly resulted in an overpayment to Fernando Benavente in the amount of \$23,433 as of April 30, 2012. The Retirement Fund concluded that Fernando Benavente's annual pension should have been \$21,778, instead of the \$22,809 the Retirement Fund had computed from the date of his retirement. Based on this, the Retirement Fund concluded that it is required to adjust all future payments to Fernando Benavente and that it will deduct the overpayment from Fernando Benavente's semi-monthly pension beginning June 5, 2012, until the overpayment is fully paid.

On June 21, 2012, the Re-

tirement Fund sent Fernando Benavente a notice of temporary stay of adjustment of benefits, informing him that many retirees affected by the same audit had appealed the adverse actions and requested a stay. This necessitated the hiring of a special hearing officer from off-island. Although the Retirement Fund recognized that Fernando Benavente had not filed to appeal the adverse action, the Retirement Fund decided to hold off on making any adjustments to his semi-monthly payments until a special hearing officer could hear the issue.

The Settlement Fund then decided that the stay would remain in effect until Fernando Benavente had been given the opportunity to appeal the decision, at which time the Settlement Fund indicated it would provide an updated outstanding amount and notice of hearing date, time, and location.

Fernando Benavente died on Sept. 2, 2015. In 2016, John Benavente petitioned the court to appoint him as administrator of his father's estate. The court granted the request.

Soon after that, the Settlement Fund sent a letter to Lorna A. Benavente, advising

her that her application for survivor's annuity had been approved for benefits as a surviving spouse, with the notice that it reserves the right to correct the annuity if it later discovered an error.

Torres said the Settlement Fund had issued a stay and a notice to Fernando Benavente that his payments would not be reduced regardless of the 2012 adverse decision.

In 2018, the Settlement Fund filed a claim in the estate proceedings, claiming an overpayment of benefits to Fernando Benavente in the amount of \$11,561. Torres said the Settlement Funds admits that, as of May 7, 2012, the Retirement Fund was aware of the overpayments. Now, Torres said, the Settlement Fund comes back to seek overpayment, despite its inaction from 2012 to 2018, and continued payments to, first, Fernando Benavente, and then to his widow, Lorna Benavente.

The Settlement Fund issued an adverse decision letter to Lorna Benavente on Sept. 6, 2018, informing her that the Settlement Fund had audited Fernando Benavente's file and had discovered an overpayment of benefits to her in the amount of \$2,279 (from Sept. 1, 2015, through Aug. 31,

2018) and sought to recover that amount from Lorna A. Benavente. She appealed that decision on Oct. 5, 2018. The Settlement Fund has yet to take any action on her appeal.

Fernando Benavente received benefits from Dec. 1991, to the date of his death on Sept. 2, 2015. Lorna Benavente as the surviving spouse continued to receive his benefits. Yet the Retirement Fund and the Settlement Fund slept on their rights since May 2012, before they realized their error, Torres said. Now Fernando Benavente's estate faces a demand of \$11,561 and Lorna Benavente is expected to pay back \$2,279 in survivor's benefits. Torres said if the Retirement Fund had correctly computed Fernando Benavente's benefits, there would not have been an overpayment.

In the Settlement Fund's opening brief, Torres-Ripple said their claim against the estate is not time-barred because the administrator failed to satisfy the requirements under the NMI Probate Law and the NMI Rules of Probate Procedures and since the administrator failed to notify the Settlement Fund of the 60-day deadline, the Settlement Funds' claim against the estate is not time-barred.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 4, 1999

Businessmen call for more reforms

Amid the economic crisis besetting the Northern Marianas, business groups believe that the CNMI government has been very slow in implementing measures that will improve the island's investment climate. Since he assumed power 16 months ago, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has been battling the effects of Asia's financial crisis on the tourism economy, renewed threats of a federal takeover on labor and immigration and the negative publicity in connection with allegations on labor abuses. "Considering all the problems that he has to hurdle, I think he has done a remarkable job. Improving the economy is something that does not happen overnight," said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Kerry M. Deets.

Water around Managaha studied

The CNMI's Marine Monitoring Team spent last week studying the waters around Managaha Island, compiling information that may be used to establish portions of the Saipan lagoon as a conservative area. The MMT is an inter-agency scuba team that studies the health of the CNMI's marine waters. "It was requested that the MMT other some base line data on the health

of the water and reefs near Managaha," explained Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Ignacio V. Cabrera. "No decisions are being made right now as to what to do with the are. We are just putting together some information that will hopefully help island residents and lawmakers make decisions later."

June 4, 2004

Tinian welcomes son

Under clear skies and a warm Sunday sun, the small commuter plane carrying Sgt. Nazario Borja pulled up to family and friends, who were all anxiously awaiting to finally see for themselves that he is okay. Deployed to Iraq on November 2003, Borja was severely injured when a mortar round exploded inside his camp, killing a comrade and nearly ending his own. With wounds to his chest, arms, abdomen and legs, shrapnel also punctured a main artery, filling his lungs with blood. Thanks to the quick response of personnel at the scene, doctors were able to reconnect the artery and save his life. Last Sunday, Borja finally arrived on Tinian, back into the welcoming arms of his family, relatives, friends, and the Tinian community.

\$10K worth of marijuana plants seized

The Department of Public Safety seized last Wednesday several fully-grown marijuana plants with a total estimated street value between \$8,000 to \$10,000. According to Crime Stoppers coordinator and DPS public information officer Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr., a total of 93 plants ranging in height from six to 12 feet were uprooted from a location in Capitol Hill. Most of the plants reportedly had stems of about three inches

in diameter. Blas said information about the location and the plants came courtesy of a tip received through the Crime Stoppers hotline earlier in the day.

June 4, 2005

The sweet, little girl grows up

Kimberly Romano speaks like a sweet, soft-spoken older sister. She wears her wavy hair in a bun. She is refined and feminine, whether in a halter-necked top and jeans or in her Army uniform and no-nonsense combat boots. By just looking at her, it is difficult to imagine Romano being in any military situation. But then, she will probably be the first to say that she does not fit the stereotype of a woman in the U.S. Army. Now 22, Romano recalls herself as a "lazy" teenager. She was a dutiful daughter alright, but she had no desire for any physical activity. She disliked being bound by too many rules.

Tinian high school students visit Hiroshima

Two students from Tinian High School—Joelene Lizama and Aiyela Cing—along with Tinian High School principal Florine Hofschneider and teacher Keiko Manglona are recently visited the city of Hiroshima. Tinian Municipal Council director James Mendiola Jr. said the students and school officials left on May 30 for Japan as part of Tinian High School's first official sister school visit to Hiroshima Koryo High School. The visiting group was met at the Hiroshima airport by members of the Koryo High School staff and news reporters, Mendiola said. The Tinian High School and Hiroshima Koryo High School signed a sister school relationship agreement in 2004.

MCS to hold safe in-person high school graduation

Mount Carmel School announced this week that, after working with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' COVID-19 Task Force, it will be able to hold an in-person high school graduation ceremony.

The ceremony is slated for Saturday, June 20, at 4pm at Mount Carmel Cathedral and will follow several safety protocols, including those that have recently been issued for churches and houses of worship.

"We truly appreciate the guidance and support of Gov. Torres and his COVID-19 Task Force for helping us make this graduation both possible and safe for our students and their families," said school president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "We especially appreciate all the help we have received from [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña and task force chair Warren

Villagomez."

To ensure the safety of graduates, their families and friends, and school officials that will participate in the ceremony, the school will enforce strict safety measures that comply with all current social distancing and mitigation guidelines that have been set forth by the COVID-19 Task Force. Primarily, attendance will be limited to 25% capacity of the cathedral, based on occupancy assessments from the CNMI Department of Public Works. To that end, a limited number of participation tickets will be issued to graduates and their families. Live-streaming of the ceremony will also be facilitated to accommodate family and friends that cannot attend due to the 25% capacity limit.

In addition, all participants will be required to wear face masks, and face masks will be provided to anyone that does



As a prelude to graduation, Mount Carmel School's Class of 1990 recently funded Project Familia's banners showcasing the school's graduating Class of 2020.

ushers wearing personal protective equipment will also be present to help enforce these safety measures. Additional safety protocols will be developed and implemented as the school prepares for the graduation.

"All our high school graduation ceremonies have historically been held in the cathedral, so this will be fitting and moving homecoming of sorts," Deleon Guerrero noted.

For more questions about the graduation or the school, visit the school's website at www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (PR)

not have one readily available. Participants will be also required to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from each

other, with markers and barriers laid out to guide them. Furthermore, the cathedral will be professionally cleaned and

disinfected prior to the graduation and hand sanitizers will be available at each entrance point of the cathedral. Trained

OVR marks 100 years of vocational rehab services

The CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation under the CNMI Office of the Governor is joining the rest of the nation in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first federally funded program that assists people with disabilities.

On June 2, 1920, President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the Smith-Fess Act of 1920, also known as the Industrial Rehabilitation Act or the National Civilian Vocational Rehabilitation Act.

Over the years, the program has reinvented itself numerous times to meet the changing employment needs and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and the demands of public policy.

While the basic program has remained constant since its inception, it now makes use of new and more effective methods to empower individuals with disabilities, particularly those with significant disabilities, to achieve high-quality employment outcomes.

Since 1975, OVR in the CNMI has assisted youth and adults with disabilities to obtain, maintain or advance in employment.

"Our OVR services are designed to help consumers succeed in jobs that enable them to live as independently as possible, reduce or eliminate their need for publicly funded benefits, and be fully contributing members of their local communities," said CNMI OVR executive director Maryann Borja-Arriola.

The most common categories of disability among OVR consumers are cognitive impairment, psychological, physical, mental, and orthopedic impairments.

OVR also has specialized ser-

vices that help clients be as self-sufficient as possible, and these are provided through the CNMI Center for Independent Living.

"We work in partnership with community organizations and businesses to develop employment opportunities for people with disabilities through job fair events, outreach, and referrals," added Borja-Arriola.

OVR offers business services that include consultations with employers about diversifying their workforce by hiring people with disabilities, and prescreening services to match employers with clients who are qualified, reliable job candidates. (PR)

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School promoted 32 of its eighth graders last Tuesday via drive-thru certificate distribution and a virtual ceremony that was viewed online.

Due to COVID-19 measures in places, schools are forced to be creative with their promotion ceremonies, with Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School pulling off a hybrid drive-thru and virtual ceremony—a feat that school principal Tanya King said will go down in history as the first of its kind.

"Due to the unforeseen COVID-19, you are the first class

that has changed the way we celebrate the end-of-the-year ceremony where we honor your parents and guardians and celebrate your academic accomplishments. Therefore, this event will be truly historic and extraordinary," she said.


King added that this year's promotion is just as unique as the students who are living it. "You will be the first pioneers in a paradigm shift in education, an exciting and new adventure in technology and remote learning to prepare you with the skills needed after high school. It has been an honor to watch you mature, learn from your mistakes, and challenge us as well as your-

selves. Your theme, C-4, is most appropriate because it represents the fuse needed to be change agents. On behalf of the RHI family, we wish you the greatest joy, blessings, and success as you embark on your next chapter," she said in her message to the graduates.

Éclair Marj M. Ladao, the school's valedictorian, was given the opportunity to deliver her speech virtually, where she stressed that no matter how big or small a goal is, it can be reached with dedication, determination, and focus. "There were times where I was tired and wanted to give up. But with the support of everyone around me, I con-

quered those hard times and turned those mistakes into lessons. Like William Jennings Bryan once said, 'Destiny is not a matter of chance. It is not a thing to be waiting for. It is a thing to be achieved.' I am very happy with the goals that I have achieved so far and I can't wait to fulfill all my other dreams," Ladao said.

Salutatorian Tolia Lorenza A. Quitugua took the opportunity to encourage her classmates to make the next chapter of their life count. "Throughout the hustle and bustle of high school, stay true to yourself and keep in mind that we all have a future to make. What we do now will be the foundation for the rest of our lives. So make it count," she said.



SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance June 4, 2020 at 9:30 am at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, 1st Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 1. Roll Call
 2. Adoption of Agenda
 3. Adoption of Minutes from May 7, 2020
- II. Public Comment
- III. Reports
 1. Administrator
 2. Chair
 3. Committee
 - a. Committee on Awards
 - b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
 - c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
 - d. Committee on Program and Development
 - e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
- IV. Old Business
 1. Temporary Suspension of Priority Field and Merit Incentive Awards
- V. New Business
 1. Fall 2020 Application Status
 2. Discussion-Start Smart at the Northern Marianas College
 3. Service Obligation of Active Military Personnel
- VI. Executive Session
- VII. Misc.
- VIII. Next Meeting
- IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: RFP20-OGM-070**

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 22, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"2020 MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
EMERGENCY RESPONDER RADIO REPEATER SYSTEM
FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROTA A PROJECT
UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, OFFICE
OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. ****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

A **PRE-BID MEETING** WILL BE HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM ON **JUNE 08, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME.** ****ALL PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK AND EXERCISE SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING****


QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR., ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA E-MAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JUNE 11, 2020.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BIDS
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-013**

SUBMISSION DATE: April 22, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"Demolition & Expansion of Assembly Room
for the NAP Office As Lito, Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **June 30, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, **NAP Office As Lito**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 7, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ JOSEPH A. HUNTER
DCCA, SECRETARY

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

There is no excuse for government-sanctioned violence against the free press

Journalists know that when they cover chaotic and dangerous events, a press credential is a thin shield against the bullets flying and batons swinging around them. But as protests have spread around the nation in recent days, journalists have become the targets themselves because they are journalists.

That is troubling on a number of levels. Whatever you think about the fourth estate, news reporters serve as the public's eyes and ears on the events shaping the world. And in too many cities, local law enforcement has been trying to stop them from showing the public the turmoil caused by the death of George Floyd—and the government's response to it.

The media's job is complicated by a president who routinely refers to the media as the "enemy of the people," a freighted designation that historically has come with official crackdowns and persecutions. President Donald Trump resorts to inflammatory rhetoric with disconcerting regularity, but words have meaning, and consequences.

Two Los Angeles Times journalists covering the protests in Minneapolis recently—writer Molly Hennessy-Fiske and photographer Carolyn Cole—were targeted, along with colleagues from other outlets, by Minneapolis state police who fired at them with rubber bullets and tear gas, then pursued them as they sought shelter. That was not a one-off incident.

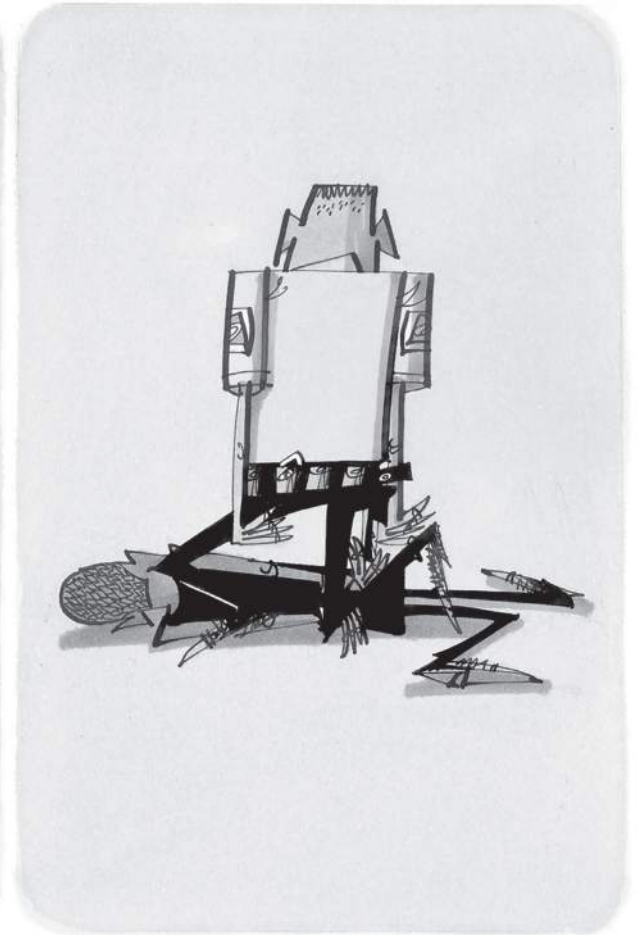
The Nieman Lab, which covers trends in journalism, reported Monday that journalists had been attacked by police officers more than 110 times since May 28, when the street protests over Floyd's death while in police custody in Minneapolis spread nationwide. Some of those incidents were incidental, as journalists got caught between factions. But many were intentional.

Nick Waters, who reports for the online investigative news site Bellingcat, has been keeping a running compilation of reports on Twitter of journalists attacked as they cover protests around the nation. A photographer jabbed in the stomach with a police baton in Los Angeles. A photographer in Indianapolis threatened by a police officer brandishing a rifle that fires "less than lethal" ammunition. A TV crew targeted with rubber bullets while broadcasting live in Louisville, Ky. Adding an international dimension, the Australian government has launched an investigation into the police tear gas assault on an Australian TV crew airing live from outside the

See **THERE** on Next Page

WHICH ONE SHOULD UPSET AMERICANS?

Judge Zooking Features



Racism is the biggest reason the US safety net is so weak

Recently, the economics profession lost one of its leading lights—Harvard professor Alberto Alesina. The Italian economist, who died of a heart attack at age 63, helped revolutionize the field of political economy.

Economists are often criticized for ignoring the political aspects of their theories. At least since the end of World War II, economists have generally seen their role as offering expert advice to wise technocratic leaders—"whispering in the ears of princes." But in the real world, leaders with both the wisdom to listen to academic experts and the power to implement any much less all of their recommendations are quite rare; more often, the political world is a tangle of interest groups, culture wars, partisan bickering and electoral expediency.

Some economists throw up their hands at this mess and conclude that if leaders aren't going to listen to reason, so be it. Not Alesina. He waded directly into the tangled mess, using theory and data to try to tease out the complicated interplay between politics and economics.

One of the big questions Alesina tackled was why the U.S. doesn't have the generous welfare benefits of advanced countries in Europe. His answer, along with co-authors Edward Glaeser and Bruce Sacerdote, was twofold. First, U.S. institutions—the Senate, the electoral system, the legal system—were designed much earlier than their modern European equivalents, and are thus more oriented toward protecting private property above all else. But in addition, the economists found evidence that racial animosity was a source of American exceptionalism.

Opponents of redistribution in the United States have regularly used race-based rhetoric to resist left-wing policies... Within the United States, race is the single most important predictor of support for welfare. America's troubled race relations are clearly a major reason for the absence of an American welfare state.

Listening to conservative talk-show hosts such as Rush Limbaugh, who derided Obamacare and other Obama administration social programs as "reparations," it's hard to argue with Alesina's conclusion.

Alesina also believed that racial and ethnic divisions could inhibit a country's economic growth. With co-authors Reza

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at [Noahpinion](#).



Baqir and William Easterly, he found that U.S. cities with more ethnic fragmentation were less effective at building roads, picking up trash and spending money on education—all things that contribute to economic growth. And with Easterly and Janina Matuszeski, he found that post-colonial states with boundaries that cut across ethnic groups tended to do worse economically than those with more natural borders like rivers and mountains.

To some, this might seem like a confirmation of right-wing ideas that diversity is bad for a country. But although it might help explain the success of homogenous countries such as Sweden and South Korea, Alesina's theory is much more subtle than it might appear. As he explained in a 2003 paper, the key isn't how similar the inhabitants of a country might appear on paper, but how much they see themselves as one people; fractionalization is in the mind, rather than in the genes. That implies that the way forward for the U.S. and other diverse countries, to become more equal and prosperous, is to de-emphasize racial and ethnic divisions and promote a shared identity.

Alesina's research, of course, covered much more than the question of ethnic tensions. He also researched the link between inequality and growth. Some economists believe that the key to growth is to cut taxes and deregulate the financial system; the increased inequality that results from these policies, they argue, is simply the price of greater efficiency. But Alesina had the opposite theory—inequality, he reasoned, leads to social discontent, which foments political instability, reducing economic growth. Looking across recent history, he and

See **RACISM** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Where do we go from here? Martin Luther King Jr.'s old question endures

As President Donald Trump described himself in the White House Rose Garden as “an ally of all peaceful protesters,” reporters could hear the awful sound of peaceful protesters being cleared from Lafayette Park with tear gas, flash-bangs and rubber bullets.

After a day of peaceful protests Monday, the park directly across the street from the north side of the White House was being cleared so the president could be photographed walking through the park to historic St. John's Church, which had been damaged by a small fire Sunday night after peaceful protests were displaced by vandals and looters.

The unrest in the president's neighborhood was part of the fallout from the video recorded death on Memorial Day of George Floyd, a black Minneapolis man who can be seen on video smothering to death under the knee of since-fired police Officer Derek Chauvin, for at least eight minutes. Civil unrest broke out before Chauvin was arrested and charged with the killing Friday and continued through the weekend.

In city after city, the ranks of peaceful protesters were infiltrated by vandals and looters, who captured the president's focus after he expressed disapproval of Chauvin's actions.

After the president was escorted by Secret Service agents to the White House bunker Friday night, he wanted to project a more man-in-charge image.

This, after all, is the former reality TV star who reportedly told top aides to think of each presidential day as an episode in a television show in which he vanquishes rivals.

Trump earlier Monday had a confrontation during a conference call with Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and other governors over the

president's rhetoric in response to Floyd's death. The rhetoric included a presidential tweet that “when the looting starts, the shooting starts” and a call for governors to “dominate the streets.”

The president retorted in typical Trumpian fashion that he didn't care much for Pritzker's rhetoric either.

Trump preferred to take his show to the historic church, not for prayer or reflection but for a photo op as he held up a Bible, which he confirmed was not necessarily his Bible. It was not to be read anyway but to be displayed as sort of a trophy, in the eyes of Bishop Mariann Budde, head of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, who did not approve.

In fact, she was outraged to have received “not even a courtesy call that they would be clearing with tear gas so they could use one of our churches as a prop,” she told The Washington Post. She also denounced Trump for “holding a Bible that declares that God is love ... when everything he has said and done is to inflame violence.”

Indeed, one gets the same impression from his rhetoric directed to the governors. They're going to be viewed as “weak” and look like “fools” and “a bunch of jerks,” he said, if they don't “dominate” the streets, including bringing in the National Guard—an action some of the governors, including Pritzker, already were doing.

That's OK from Trump's political standpoint, since he likes to set things up to take credit for successes and leave the blame for failures to somebody else, preferably Democrats.

But meanwhile, the rest of us can just look elsewhere, including to the governors, for the leadership that we desperately need—which brings to mind a question asked under

By **CLARENCE PAGE**

Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.



similar circumstances by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?” is the title of his 1967 book.

“A riot is the language of the unheard,” said King, as a way of explaining, not justifying, violent unrest in a 1967 speech.

And what is it that America has failed to hear? Among other things, King said, “It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice, equality and humanity.”

“And as long as America postpones justice,” King said, “we stand in the position of having these recurrences of violence and riots over and over again.”

One hopes that Trump's war talk is nothing more than his usual bluster, if amped for an election year. Of course, we need law and order. But, as King concluded, “Social justice and progress are the absolute guarantors of riot prevention.” We're still waiting.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

52 years later

I grew up mostly in South Avondale, Cincinnati, Ohio. I was in the Army on leave before doing a second tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam when civil unrest came to South Avondale. The United States was in flames in 1967, '68, and '69 over the very same damned issues as today.

I think it was worse back then because it was black Americans against, well, everybody else. The Civil Rights Act was barely 4 years old and having to answer for killing black people in the United States was still a novel idea for most of America. As I said, I was on leave but I was a medic in the 101st Airborne back then and, because of my training, I played a very small part in keeping a few young black men from dying during the civil uprising.

In any case, time has passed, but the issues remain the same. I used to ask aloud, but, rhetorically...if anyone actu-

ally thought passing laws would change the attitudes and behaviors of the oppressors. Some said, “It's a start.” Well, it is 52 years later and the only thing that changed is that we got older, more young people of all racial, cultural, and ethnic groups have joined the struggle and now we have the internet and the attendant social media platforms.

Initially I wrote the above in response to a question on Facebook. Then I read in the newspapers about a young lady peacefully supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. Then I read some of the very negative comments about her activity. So I decided to add to my little missive.

In 1986, after retiring from the Army, I came to the CNMI. The short story is, when I arrived here, there was a small community of black Americans who mostly, individually, kept to themselves. When I arrived, the local community was very close-minded and had no compunction about calling black people “n----” and they often did, no matter how often one might tell them it was offensive. Back then, the local CNMI population generally thought of “Americans” as white people, period, and they thought of themselves as “white-adjacent.” Many still do. There were a few incidents; but, over time and

exposure to the broader world, things improved, at least on the outside. But given the negative comments I read in the online newspapers this morning, it seems the racism and ethnocentrism just went underground. Today, they raise their ugly heads electronically in the form of the cowardly keyboard warrior attacks while hiding behind their avatar anonymity.

Lastly, in the history of the United States, no, in the world, no change has ever occurred without civil unrest. “Peaceful protest” is a demonstrable myth. The synonym for “peaceful protest” is loitering. It accomplishes nothing except to keep the “have-nots” in their place. No “haves” have ever willingly given up what they perceive as theirs. The “have-nots” have always had to forcefully take what they perceive as theirs, be it property or liberty. Before you can negotiate you must first get your oppressor's attention.

Someone asked me about the point of writing this letter. My answer is I was and am an educator, so I educate. Education, like democracy, doesn't always feel good.

John Davis

Finasisu Terrace, Saipan

THERE

From Page 8

White House.

In the highest-profile incident, CNN reporter Omar Jimenez and his camera and sound crew were arrested, also live on air, in Minneapolis, as was a local TV crew—two among a series of such abuses in that city. African American journalists have reported being singled out, including a reporter for the Detroit Free Press approached by a police officer as he stood amid a small group of white journalists.

And it's not just police lashing out at journalists. Protesters themselves have targeted the media. A throng vandalized CNN headquarters in Atlanta. Protesters battered a Fox TV crew outside the White House. A mob that assaulted a photographer in Fayetteville, N.C., as he took video of them looting a store.

And on it goes. Although no journalists have been killed so far, some have been severely injured, including freelance photographer Linda Tirado, who reported on Twitter that she had permanently lost the use of her left eye after being struck in the face by a rubber bullet in Minneapolis. The photographer attacked by the looters in Fayetteville reported he suffered a concussion. The LA Times' Hennessy-Fiske and Cole suffered injuries, too.

As dispiriting as it is for journalists to be attacked by mem-

bers of the public, it is even more problematic—and dangerous for democracy—when the attackers are sanctioned by the government. A police officer in paramilitary garb and armed to the teeth sends a specific message when targeting those who, exercising their 1st Amendment rights, are trying to serve as witnesses to governmental actions amid social unrest. It's not paranoid to think that attacks in those circumstances—and scores of them nationwide—are acts of governmental intimidation intended to dissuade those who would bear witness.

It's always hard to tell how intense a storm is when you stand in the middle of it, so it's unclear whether the current outpouring of grief and anger around the nation will bend the long arc toward justice for African Americans and other people of color. We hope the past week reflects a broad chorus of American voices from across the spectrum of race and class rising to tell police—and the governments that employ them—that they must reform how they enforce laws and deal with communities they have historically mistreated.

But in the meantime, police and government officials need to recognize how important it is for journalists to bear witness to these events, as well as their right to do so without fear of being targeted by agents of the state.

RACISM

From Page 8

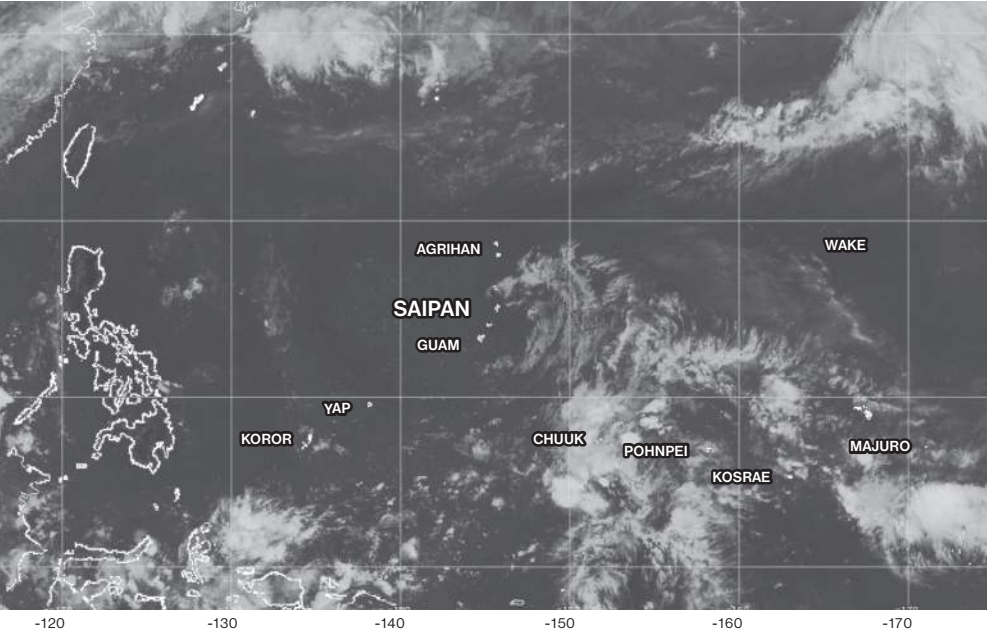
co-author Roberto Perotti found that more unequal countries are more likely to fall into political chaos and suffer economic decline. So time and again, Alesina shows that politics can turn intuition about markets on its head.

It's worth noting that there was one case when his emphasis on politics may have led Alesina astray. After the 2008 financial crisis, Alesina and his co-authors argued that it was possible for spending cuts to be expansionary in a recession. A key idea was that spending cuts convince the public that a government will be fiscally responsible in the future, and makes consumers more confident to spend in the present. But later research by various economists at the International Monetary Fund found that the conventional wisdom is right—austerity in a recession hurts growth. In the case of stimulus, brute economic forces tend to be more powerful than political ones.

But even though politics doesn't always dominate market forces, it does so often enough that the economics world can ill afford to ignore the insights that Alesina uncovered. The world is not ruled by wise, selfless technocrats, but by the chaotic sentiments of the masses. Good advice is never enough; there must be some way of making economics work in the eyes of the people it's designed to benefit.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms elsewhere.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
90°	78°	89°	78°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:25 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, patchy showers and gentle to moderate trade winds prevail across the Marinas this morning. Latest buoy observations show seas between 2 and 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 1
MAY 21, 2020, 11:30 AM



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

- Cashier & Customer Service**
Monday - Friday (Closed on Holidays)
7:30 AM - 3:00 PM
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Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org, via phone by calling toll free Tel: 1-(855)-729-2282, or at any Bank of Guam, Bank of Saipan, or Bank of Hawaii Branch



Department of Public Works

- Administrative Services Division**
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8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
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- Building Safety Code Division**
Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 234-9828 / 2296
- Technical Services Division**
Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 234-9828 / 9838
 - Highway Branch**
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
- Energy Division**
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4480 / 4481
- Roads and Grounds Division**
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tel: (670) 322-9498
- Solid Waste Management Division**
 - Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill**
Open all week except Wednesday & Sunday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2745 (Lower Base)
(670) 322-2761 (Marpi Landfill)



CNMI State Medicaid Agency

- Eligibility Office & Accounting / Claims**
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
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Still accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal / redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp



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- Division of Agriculture**
Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 256-3320 / 3321
- Division of Fish & Wildlife**
Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-6000



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Tel: (670) 237-7500 / 7600



Office of the Public Defender

- Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Tel: (670) 234-6503

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:09 AM	5:11 PM
Friday	-	4:59 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	-	5:52 AM	7:16 PM
Sunday	-	6:48 AM	8:17 PM
Monday	-	7:47 AM	9:14 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 52°	
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 63°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°	
London	Cloudy	63° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	95° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 68°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°	
Paris	Cloudy	66° / 54°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°	
Rome	Windy	77° / 64°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 68°	
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 53°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	82° / 61°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	93° / 71°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.24	
12:43 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.06	
7:27 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.05	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	9:00	9:35	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	10:00	10:30	Tues/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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Business

Zoom booms as pandemic drives millions to its video service

SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP)—Zoom Video Communications is rapidly emerging as the latest internet gold mine as millions of people flock to its conferencing service to see colleagues, friends and family while tethered to their homes during the pandemic.

Tuesday's release of the once-obscure company's financial results for the February-April period provided a window into the astronomical growth that has turned it into a Wall Street star.

Zoom's revenue for its fiscal first-quarter more than doubled from the same time last year to \$328 million, resulting a profit of \$27 million—up from just \$198,000 a year ago.

The numbers exceeded analysts' already heightened expectations, providing another lift to a rocketing stock that has more than tripled in price so far this year while the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index has fallen 5%.

After a big run-up leading up to Tuesday's highly anticipated announcement, Zoom's stock initially rose even higher in extended trading. But it abruptly reversed course and fell more than 3% after company executives acknowledged during a video discussion that some of its newfound users might depart during

Zuckerberg still under fire over inflammatory Trump posts

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg isn't budging over his refusal to take action on inflammatory posts by President Donald Trump that spread misinformation about voting by mail and, many said, encouraged violence against protesters.

His critics, however, are multiplying. Some employees have publicly quit over the issue and civil-rights leaders who met with him Monday night denounced Zuckerberg's explanation for choosing to leave Trump's posts alone as "incomprehensible."

A day after dozens of Facebook employees staged a virtual walkout over the issue, the Facebook chief met Tuesday with employees for a Q&A session held via online video. During that session, which



In this April 23, 2020 file photo, members of the Vermont House of Representatives convene in a Zoom video conference for its first full parliamentary online session in Montpelier, Vt.

the second half of the year if health worries caused by the novel coronavirus dissipate.

Even if the shares trade in similar fashion during Wednesday's regular session, the stock will still be hovering around \$200—more than five times the company's initial

public offering price of \$36 less than 14 months ago.

The surge left Zoom with a market value of about \$59 billion through Tuesday—greater than the combined market values of the four largest U.S. airlines, which have seen their businesses hammered by the

coronavirus outbreak that has dramatically curtailed travel.

"Videoconferencing is going to become a mainstream service," predicted Zoom CEO Eric Yuan, who co-founded the company nine years ago.

He made the remarks during the video conference that at one point attracted more than 3,000 participants, a reflection of the intense interest in the company and its hot stock.

In a sign that the compa-

ny still expects phenomenal growth in the months ahead, Zoom forecast revenue of roughly \$500 million for its current quarter ending in July, more than quadrupling from the same time last year. For its full fiscal year, Zoom now expects revenue of about \$1.8 billion, nearly tripling in a year.

Zoom's boom has come despite privacy and security problems that enabled outsiders to make uninvited—and sometimes crude—appearances during other people's video conferences.

The concerns prompted some schools to stop using Zoom for online classes that have become widespread since February, although the company's efforts to introduce more security protection has brought some back to the service. More than 100,000 schools worldwide are now using Zoom for online classes, according to the company.

Overall, Zoom now has more than 300 million daily participants attending a meeting held on its service, up from 10 million five months ago. Those numbers include people who join multiple Zoom meetings during the same day, something that has been happening more recently in recent months.

BOG announces 2020 IFIT Scholars



Ardos



Mascarinas



Pohoku



Samo



Tajeron

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is pleased to announce its five IFIT Scholars for the year 2020:

- Maryjae Ardos (Pohnpei) - Xavier High School, Chuuk
- Monique Mascarinas (Saipan) - Marianas High School, Saipan
- Pohoku En Kathleen Roby (Chuuk) - Xavier High School, Chuuk
- Carmen Samo (Pohnpei) - Xavier High School, Chuuk
- Vicente B. Tajeron (Guam) - St. Johns School, Guam

» 9 years of offering scholarships and paid internships to awardees

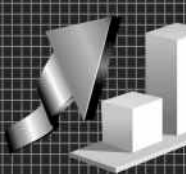
In addition to earning a \$2,000 scholarship, each awardee is offered a paid summer internship with Bank of Guam.

Joaquin Cook, Bank of Guam's president and chief executive officer, stated, "Our Class of 2020 IFIT Scholars is a distinguished group, graduating and making history during this pandemic time. As a part of our mission of provid-

ing opportunity to our islanders, we are proud to be a part of their very unique journey, and join them in this important next step. Our selections were made from a very competitive applicant pool, and we send our warmest congratulations to these young adults and their families."

For additional information, please contact Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258. (PR)

STOCK PORTFOLIO



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S&P

2,873.40

+6.16

+0.21%

DOW

26,218.13

+39.03

+0.15%

NASDAQ

7,895.55

+46.86

+0.60%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.44	Indian Rupee	74.61	Singapore Dollar	1.35
British Pound	0.80	Japanese Yen	108.55	South Korean Won	1,117.04
Canadian Dollar	1.35	Malaysian Ringgit	4.22	Swiss Franc	1.00
Chinese Yuan	7.00	New Zealand Dollar	1.56	Taiwan Dollar	30.30
Euro	0.89	Philippine Peso	51.07	Thailand Baht	31.72

Nation

AP sources: White House softens on sending troops to states

WASHINGTON (AP)—A day after threatening states that he would dispatch the military to quell protests, President Donald Trump appeared to be privately backing off his threat to deploy troops, with White House officials saying this week's response to demonstrations across the country indicated that local governments should be able to restore order themselves.

The shift came as protests in Washington and other cities over police brutality against minorities proceeded Tuesday with relative calm, a striking contrast to the harsh crackdowns outside the White House on Monday night. The president wanted to make the aggressive action in the nation's capital an example for the rest of the country, a senior White House official said Tuesday.

The Defense Department has drafted contingency plans for how to deploy active-duty military if needed. Pentagon documents reviewed by The Associated Press showed plans for soldiers from an Army division to protect the White House and other federal buildings if the security situation in the nation's capital were to deteriorate and the National Guard could not secure the facilities.

But interest in exerting that extraordinary federal authority appeared to be waning in the White House. Though the crackdown on the Washington demonstrations was praised by some Trump supporters Tues-

day, a handful of Republicans expressed concern that law enforcement officers risked violating the protesters' First Amendment rights. The defense secretary also distanced himself from Trump's decision to walk across Lafayette Park for a photo opportunity at a church after the demonstrations had been cleared.

Pentagon Chief Mark Esper, who walked with Trump to St. John's Church on Monday evening, insisted he did not know the president's destination.

"I didn't know where I was going," Esper told NBC News. He said he had expected to view damage to a bathroom facility that had been vandalized in Lafayette Park, across from the White House, and talk with National Guard troops positioned there.

The protests have sprung up across the country following the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pinned him down and pressed Floyd's neck with his knee. Violent demonstrations have raged in scores of American cities, marking a level of unrest unseen for decades.

The situation in Washington escalated Monday, becoming a potent symbol of Trump's policing tactics and a physical manifestation of the rhetorical culture war he has stoked since before he was elected. Nearly 30 minutes before a 7 p.m. curfew in Washington, U.S. Park Police repelled



AP
Members of the DC National Guard block an intersection on 16th Street as demonstrators gather to protest the death of George Floyd, Tuesday, June 2, 2020, near the White House in Washington.

protesters with what they said were smoke canisters and pepper balls.

"D.C. had no problems last night. Many arrests. Great job done by all. Overwhelming force. Domination," Trump tweeted Tuesday, after a night in which heavily armed military forces and federal officers swarmed the city. Trump added, "(thank you President Trump!)."

The clampdown on the protesters followed a weekend of demonstrations outside the White House. Trump had been furious about images juxta-

posing fires set in the park outside the executive mansion with a darkened White House in the background, according to current and former campaign and administration officials. He was also angry about the news coverage revealing he had been rushed to the White House bunker during Friday's protests.

He moved to respond aggressively Monday. In an evening address in the Rose Garden, he called on governors to ramp up the National Guard presence in their states

to tamp down the protests. If they didn't abide by those orders, Trump said, he would

dispatch the military to their states—a step rarely taken in modern American history.

Biden moves closer to formally winning Democratic nomination

Joe Biden is on the cusp of formally securing the Democratic presidential nomination after winning hundreds more delegates in primary contests Tuesday that tested the nation's ability to run elections while balancing a pandemic and sweeping social unrest.

Biden could lock down the nomination within the next week as West Virginia and Georgia hold primaries.

On Tuesday, voters across America were forced to navigate curfews, health concerns and National Guard troops—waiting in line hours after polls closed in some cases—after election officials dramatically reduced the number of in-person voting sites to minimize the spread of the coronavirus outbreak.

Biden and President Donald Trump easily swept their respective primary contests that ranged from Maryland to Montana and featured the night's biggest prize: Pennsylvania. The two men are certain to face each other on the presidential ballot in November, yet party rules require them first to accumulate a majority of delegates in the monthslong state-by-state primary season.

Trump secured the Re-

publican presidential nomination in March.

Pennsylvania, which offered Tuesday's largest trove of delegates, also represented a significant test case for Republicans and Democrats working to strengthen their operations in a premier general election battleground.

Voters were forced to brave long lines in "militarized zones" because officials consolidated the vast majority of polling places in Philadelphia to minimize health risks, according to Erin Kramer, executive director of One Pennsylvania. She noted that some polling places in African American communities are in police stations.

"Having to stand in line while police officers are entering and exiting the building on police business is not exactly how people want to spend their election day," Kramer said.

Biden was in Philadelphia earlier Tuesday to deliver remarks about the civil unrest that has erupted across the nation after the police killing of George Floyd. He didn't talk about the primary, instead focusing his attention on Trump, whom Biden blasted as "more interested in power than in principle."

False claims of antifa protesters plague small US cities

CHICAGO (AP)—In the days since President Donald Trump blamed antifa activists for an eruption of violence at protests over police killings of black people, social media has lit up with false rumors that the far-left-leaning group is transporting people to wreak havoc on small cities across America.

The speculation was being raised by conservative news outlets and pro-Trump social media accounts, as well as impostor Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Twitter and Facebook busted some of the instigators behind the unsubstantiated social media chatter. Twitter determined Monday that a tweet promising antifa would "move into residential areas" and "white" neighborhoods was sent by the white supremacy group Identity Evropa. The tweet was shared hundreds of times and cited in online news articles before Twitter removed it Monday, a company spokesperson said.

Yet the tweet continued to

circulate Tuesday on Facebook and Instagram.

Facebook, using information shared by Twitter, announced Tuesday night it also took down a handful of accounts on its platform that were created by white supremacy groups like Identity Evropa and American Guard, some of them posing as part of the antifa movement.

For years, some social media users have tried to delegitimize controversial or political protests with baseless theories that they were organized by wealthy financiers or extremists organizations. Over the weekend, Trump singled out antifa as being responsible for the violent protests triggered by the killing of George Floyd, saying in a tweet: "It's ANTI-FA and the Radical Left."

"Usually you see this when there's an interest to deflect conversations from protests to just accusing the protests of being violent, organized or having backers that are evil," said Filip-

po Menczer, a professor of informatics and computer science at Indiana University. "The president mentioning it, of course, has generated a huge spike."

The theories about antifa—short for "anti-fascists" and an umbrella term for leftist militant groups that confront or resist neo-Nazis and white supremacists at demonstrations—have trickled through cities across the country in recent days.

Police departments say people are phoning in "tips" they see on social media claiming antifa is sending buses or even planes full of antifa activists to their area.

In Payette County, Idaho—a rural county of 24,000—the calls started early Monday morning after one Facebook user said the sheriff had spotted antifa rioters in the area. The calls didn't taper off until the sheriff's office debunked the rumor on Facebook.

"It's really a small community, where our citizens know us pretty well," said Pay-

ette County Sheriff Lt. Andy Creech. "When the post got out there, we started getting phone calls directly."

Meanwhile, Facebook users were also warning their friends to stay clear of a shopping center in a New Jersey suburb, saying it would be the center of antifa destruction on Tuesday.

But police had "no credible information" that antifa would be present in the area, Toms River Police Department media specialist Jillian Messina said in an email. The police aren't aware of anyone showing up at all, she added.

Identical Facebook and Twitter posts about busloads of antifa protesters also stumped the Sioux Falls Police Department, where officers in the South Dakota city said they didn't see any unusual bus activity in town. But the claims still spread for days ahead of a planned protest this Saturday, said Sam Clemens, a public information officer for the department.

Asia

BY DELAYING RELEASE OF COVID-19 INFO China frustrated WHO

Throughout January, the World Health Organization publicly praised China for what it called a speedy response to the new coronavirus and thanked the Chinese government for sharing the genetic map of the virus “immediately.”

But in fact, Chinese officials sat on releasing the genetic map, or genome, of the deadly virus for over a week after multiple government labs had fully decoded it, not sharing details key to designing tests, drugs and vaccines. Strict controls on information and competition within the Chinese public health system were largely to blame, The Associated Press has found from internal documents, emails and dozens of interviews.

Health officials only released the genome after a Chinese lab published it ahead of authorities on a virology website on Jan 11. Even then, China stalled for at least two weeks more on giving WHO the details it needed, according to recordings of multiple internal meetings held by the U.N. health agency in January—all at a time when the

outbreak arguably might have been dramatically slowed.

Although WHO continued to publicly commend China, the recordings obtained by the AP show they were concerned China was not sharing enough information to assess the risk posed by the new virus, costing the world valuable time.

“We’re currently at the stage where yes, they’re giving it to us 15 minutes before it appears on CCTV,” said WHO’s top official in China, Dr. Gauden Galea, referring to the state-owned China Central Television, in one meeting.

The story behind the early response to the pandemic comes at a time when the U.N. health agency is under siege. U.S. President Trump cut ties with WHO on Friday, after blasting the agency for allegedly colluding with China to hide the extent of the epidemic. Chinese President Xi Jinping said China has always provided information to WHO and the world “in a most timely fashion.”

The new information does not support the narrative of either the U.S. or China, but portrays an agency now stuck in the middle that was urgent-

ly trying to solicit more data. Although international law obliges countries to report information to WHO that could have an impact on public health, the U.N. agency has no enforcement powers. Instead, it must rely on the cooperation of member states.

The AP has found rather than colluding with China, WHO was itself largely kept in the dark, as China gave it only the minimal information required. But the agency did attempt to portray China in the best light, most likely to coax the country into providing more outbreak details.

WHO officials worried about how to press China for more information without angering authorities or jeopardizing Chinese scientists, whom they praised for decoding the genome with astonishing speed. Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO’s emergencies chief, said the best way to “protect China” was for WHO to do its own independent analysis, because otherwise the spread of the virus between people would be in question and “other countries will take action accordingly.”

PH suspends abrogation of defense pact with US

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has suspended his decision to terminate a key defense pact with the United States, at least temporarily avoiding a major blow to one of America’s oldest alliances in Asia.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said Tuesday he dispatched a diplomatic note to the U.S. ambassador in Manila informing the U.S. government that the Philippines is delaying its decision to abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement by at least six months.

Washington immediately welcomed the move.

“Our longstanding alliance has benefited both countries,” the U.S. government said in a statement released by its embassy in Manila. “We look forward to continued close security and defense cooperation with the Philippines.”

President Rodrigo Duterte’s administration notified the U.S. government on Feb. 11 that it intends to abrogate the 1998 agreement, which allows the entry of large numbers of American forces for joint combat training with Filipino troops and lays down the legal terms for their temporary stay. The termination would have

taken effect after 180 days, in August, unless both sides agreed to keep the agreement.

The waiting time will be suspended by at least six months and could be extended by another half a year, according to the diplomatic letter to the U.S., which cited unspecified “political and other developments in the region.”

Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Manuel Romualdez told The Associated Press by telephone that he and his American counterpart, Sung Kim, helped discuss what could be done after the coronavirus pandemic hit and hampered possible talks ahead of the agreement’s actual abrogation in August.

“We both were concerned about the deadline for the termination which was coming close,” Romualdez said.

U.S. President Donald Trump’s expression of readiness to help the Philippines deal with the pandemic during a telephone call with Duterte in April fostered the Philippine decision, Romualdez said.

Key Duterte officials led by Locsin have cited the security and economic benefits the allies have gained from the treaty alliance.

Former Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said the alliance has deterred aggressive Chinese actions in the disputed South China Sea, including possible construction of structures in Scarborough Shoal, a disputed fishing area off the northwestern Philippines that China effectively seized after a tense standoff in 2012.

The Philippines has protested other assertive actions by Beijing in recent months in disputed waters where Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei are also locked in increasingly tense territorial disputes with China.

Duterte has defended his decision to abrogate the pact with the U.S., saying the Philippines can survive and address a long-running communist insurgency and threats by Muslim extremists in the largely Roman Catholic nation’s south without American military assistance.

“Do we need America to survive as a nation?” Duterte asked in February. “Do we need ... the might and power of the military of the United States to fight our rebellion here and the terrorists down south and control drugs?”

World

UK’s Johnson vows to let in HK citizens if needed

HONG KONG (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Wednesday that the United Kingdom stands ready to open the door to almost 3 million Hong Kong citizens as the city’s leader arrived in Beijing for meetings on a planned national security law that has many worried about their futures.

Johnson, in a column published online by a Hong Kong newspaper, said the security law would curtail freedoms in Hong Kong and conflict with China’s obligations under its agreement with the United Kingdom to take back the former British colony in 1997.

“Many people in Hong Kong fear their way of life — which China pledged to uphold — is under threat,” he wrote in the South China Morning Post. “If China proceeds to justify their fears, then Britain could not in good conscience shrug our shoulders and walk away.”

China shocked many of Hong Kong’s 7.5 million people when it announced earlier this month that it would enact national security laws for the city, which is guaranteed a high level of autonomy outside of foreign and defense affairs.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, a supporter of the



AP

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam listens to reporters questions during a press conference in Hong Kong, Tuesday, June 2, 2020. Lam hit out at the “double standards” of foreign governments over national security, and pointed to recent unrest in America as an example.

move, arrived in Beijing on Wednesday morning for meetings with central government officials on the planned laws. China could enact the laws later this month or at the end of August, analysts have said.

About 350,000 Hong Kong citizens hold British National Overseas passports, a legacy of the colonial era, and 2.5 million others are eligible to apply for them, Johnson said in his column. Long lines have formed at DHL courier offices in the city since the announcement as some people rush to apply for or renew

their BNO passports.

Johnson, echoing earlier statements by Cabinet ministers, said that if China imposes a national security law, Britain would allow holders of these passports to remain for 12 months on a renewable basis and given the right to work, placing them on a possible path to UK citizenship.

“This would amount to one of the biggest changes in our visa system in British history,” he wrote, adding, “I hope it will not come to this.”

BNO passport holders currently can stay for only up to six months.

Trump questions render Trudeau speechless for 21 seconds

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday that Canadians are watching what’s unfolding in the United States with “horror and consternation” and he paused for 21 seconds when asked about U.S. President Donald Trump and the use of tear gas against protesters to clear the way for a photo opportunity.

Trudeau has long been careful not to criticize Trump as Canada relies on the U.S. for 75 percent of exports. But Trudeau, who is usually quick to answer, paused and struggled to come up with the right words when asked about Trump calling for military action against protesters and the use of tear gas for a photo opportunity.

The prime minister avoided mentioning Trump directly.

“We all watch in horror and consternation at what is going on in the United States,” he said. “It is time to pull

people together.”

Police violently broke up a peaceful and legal protest by several thousand people in Lafayette Park across from the White House ahead of a speech in the Rose Garden by Trump on Monday. The protesters had gathered following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis a week earlier.

Afterward, Trump strolled out of the White House gates and walked across the cleared Lafayette Park to make a surprise visit to St. John’s Church. Trump, standing alone in front of cameras, raised a Bible. He didn’t mention Floyd, the church or the peaceful protesters police had just cleared away.

In the same question Trudeau was also asked what message he is sending if he didn’t comment about Trump’s actions.

“Clearly, Trudeau was not expecting this pointed ques-

tion. I think he was considering whether to respond at all, which could have been taken to mean he was not going to criticize Trump,” said Nelson Wiseman, a political science professor at the University of Toronto.

“His comments are a criticism of Trump without naming Trump,” he said.

Wiseman said Trudeau was wise not to mention Trump directly.

“Trudeau is smart enough to know that. Trump has shown that he can blow a fuse even if he isn’t mentioned directly, as happened at the end of the G7,” Wiseman said.

Trump vowed to make Canada pay after Trudeau said he wouldn’t be bullied in trade talks at the conclusion of the G7 meeting in Quebec in 2018. Trump called Trudeau “weak” and “dishonest.” He threatened tariffs on cars and slapped them on steel.

Environment

By LYNDA V. MAPES
THE SEATTLE TIMES

Washington state aims to regulate water temperature at federal dams, wading into controversy

SEATTLE—The Columbia is the great river of the West, winding from the north to meet its largest tributary, the Snake in Eastern Washington, then dividing the states of Oregon and Washington on its push to the sea. Big and powerful, its wild energy has been tamed to engineered stair steps controlled by locks and dams.

But what has worked well for navigation and carbon-free hydropower production has been a killer for salmon, as its now-lazy reservoirs heat up in summer. When the water gets hot enough for long enough, salmon stop migrating, and even die of stress and disease.

Today Columbia and Snake River salmon, and orcas that depend on them, are at risk of extinction. And Washington state regulators are taking a new regulatory role to chill fish-killing hot water at four dams in the lower Columbia, and four in the lower Snake.

Regulators also have a new tool to work with, in a just-published analysis of heat pollution in the river by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), open to public comment until July 21.

Temperatures always have spiked in the rivers at times in summer, even before the dams. But today, the effects of the dams combined with the cumulative effects of climate change, push temperatures in the Columbia and lower Snake rivers over the state maximum temperature of 68 degrees for weeks on end, the EPA found.

Impacts vary by dam location, and time of year. In general, temperatures are highest in August, and the lower down in the Columbia Basin the dam, the bigger the problem. John Day Dam, east of The Dalles, was the biggest offender in the EPA's analysis, with the biggest cumulative temperature impact.

But the lower Snake River heats up, too: At Ice Harbor Dam, temperatures exceeded the state standard on average in August 100% of the time.

The EPA findings are stoking long-simmering controversy in the region over dam removal on the lower Snake River. Using a mathematical model to assess the temperature impacts under varying conditions, the EPA estimated a free-flowing lower Snake River would be within state temperature limits, even in August.

The Columbia and Snake are essential sources of chinook salmon for southern resident orcas, providing food at a hungry time of year before the orcas make their way to their summer feeding grounds in the

Salish Sea, the transboundary waters between the U.S. and Canada, and Puget Sound.

Brett VandenHeuvel, executive director at Columbia Riverkeeper, said only dam removal on the lower Snake can save orcas and salmon from extinction. "We are beyond tinkering at the edges," he said.

The nonprofit and other conservation and fishing groups initiated litigation that ultimately led to publication of the EPA's analysis, and opened the door for the state Department of Ecology to take a new regulatory role for the state at eight federal dams, four on the lower Columbia and four on the lower Snake.

This is the first time Washington has engaged its authority to regulate water-quality standards, including temperature, at federal dams—though it already does so at nonfederal dams all over the state. There are many steps ahead in the process, including public review, and rights to appeal.

Temperature is not a new problem on the Columbia and Snake. Releases of cold water from big storage dams upstream and infrastructure built at several dams already are used to help cool water temperatures in summer. But the cooling effects are soon swamped by hot water downstream.

So much heat is baked into the river by climate change that on the lower Columbia, the temperature standard could not be met at three of the four dams in August even in an entirely free flowing river, the EPA found.

That just shows the state standard is unachievable, some said—particularly with



(STEVE RINGMAN/THE SEATTLE TIMES/TNS)

The Lower Columbia River waters are so warm that sockeye salmon have sought out the cool water trickling out of the Little White Salmon hatchery pipe outflow for relief. Many are diseased, including the sockeye swimming in the background, with large patches of fungus from warm water exposure. The diseased fish are dying in these shallow waters just off the Columbia.

summer water temperatures already over the limit before the Columbia and Snake even cross the borders from B.C. and Idaho into Washington. "We and our members acknowledge that temperature is a really serious issue," said Kurt Miller, executive director of Northwest River Partners, which represents industrial river users and utilities.

"But we are concerned the plan that eventually emerges from this could be really costly for electricity customers across the region, without being able to achieve the goal," Miller said. "That would be a bad outcome."

It's too early for that kind of talk, state regulators say.

"Everyone wants to jump to 'Oh this is impossible,'" said Vince McGowan, wa-

ter quality program manager for Ecology, which will work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the dams, to implement state temperature standards. The Corps has two years to generate temperature management plans for the dams. A whole suite of actions could be taken to cool the rivers, up to and including dam removal.

"This is just the beginning, we are going to have that opportunity to talk about what can happen and what is feasible," McGowan said.

"We are on a path where we can have those conversations with dam operators working with us on how they are going to meet our temperature standards," McGowan said. "Which are just critical for protecting

and restoring salmon runs."

Temperature is only one of the problems facing Columbia and Snake salmon—but when the problem is severe and sustained, hot water is a major threat to survival for fish already struggling to hang on.

More than a dozen runs of salmon and steelhead are listed as threatened and endangered in the Columbia and Snake rivers. Despite spending billions of dollars to save Columbia Basin salmon, since the first listing in 1991 not a single salmon run has recovered. Now another species is at risk: the southern resident orcas, down to a population of just 72, in part because they cannot reliably get enough Chinook salmon, their preferred food, to eat.

The orcas take fish out of a vast hunting range. But the Columbia and Snake are such important food sources some scientists believe the orcas cannot beat extinction without dam removal on the lower Snake to boost runs in the river, once the source of 40% of all Columbia Basin spring and summer Chinook. "I really believe if they don't take the lower Snake dams out we are not going to recover the whales," said Sam Wasser, director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington, who has led a multiyear study of nutritional stress in the southern resident orcas based on analyzing hormones in the whales' scat.

Until the dam-building era began in earnest in the early 1930s, the wild Columbia was a spectacular slasher of a river, sticklebacked with bone crushing rock, swirling with sucking whirlpools, foaming

(STEVE RINGMAN/THE SEATTLE TIMES/TNS)

Aerial view of the Ice Harbor Dam near Pasco, looking east up the Snake River. Temperatures always have spiked in the Snake and Columbia at times in summer, even before the dams. But today, the effects of the dams combined with the cumulative effects of climate change push temperatures in the rivers over the state maximum temperature of 68 degrees for weeks on end, the EPA found.

with rapids, chutes and drops, and rainbowed with spray as it smashed its way through rock walls in a 1,290-mile run from B.C. to the Pacific.

Home to every species of salmon and steelhead, the river was alive in every season of the year and thronged with salmon 10 to 16 million strong, the wealth of native people living from its abundance.

But the river is now also a unique source for hydropower, with a steep drop draining the snowmelt from mountain ranges across the 259,000-square-mile Columbia River basin. Eventually 281 larger dams were built throughout the basin, home to 40% of the hydropower capacity of the entire nation, juicing power lines all over the West.

But dams also alter rivers in many ways that on the Columbia and lower Snake are combining with climate change to heat the river by an order of magnitude more than any other cause, the EPA found. The dams create a backwater effect that extends upstream, in large impoundments of water. That also slows water travel times, to 7 to 15 times longer between upstream and downstream points in the river today than under free flowing conditions in the Columbia, and 8 to 13 times longer on the lower Snake, the EPA reported.

The channel widths of the river also are wider in reservoirs that act as slow-moving heat sinks. The run-of-river dams on the main-stem Columbia and lower Snake also don't have the deep, cold water reserves of the big storage dams upstream, or the cooling freshets of free flow.

The Snake was a hot river in summer even before the dams, notes Matt Rabe, director of public affairs for the Corps' Northwestern Region. But the dams and climate change have combined to create a much bigger temperature problem for fish over many more days in summer, despite what the Corps has already done to attack the problem.

"Obviously," Rabe said, "temperature is something everyone has had their eye on for a long time."

Life & Style

Social media, music world go dark for Black Out Tuesday

NEW YORK (AP)—Though Black Out Tuesday was originally organized by the music community, the social media world also went dark in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, joining voices around the world outraged by the killings of black people in the U.S.

Instagram and Twitter accounts, from top record label to everyday people, were full of black squares posted in response to the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor.

Most of the captions were blank, though some posted #TheShowMustBePaused, black heart emojis or encouraged people to vote Tuesday with seven states and the District of Columbia are hosting the largest slate of presidential primary elections in almost three months.

Rihanna, Alicia Keys, Radiohead, Coldplay, Kelly Rowland, Beastie Boys and were among the celebrities to join Black Out Tuesday on social media.

"I won't be posting on social media and I ask you all to do the same," Britney Spears tweeted. "We should use the time away from our devices to focus on what we can do to make the world a better place for ALL of us !!!!!"

Spotify blacked out the artwork for several of its popular playlists, including RapCaviar and Today's Top Hits, simply writing "Black lives matter." as its description. The streaming service also put its Black Lives Matter playlist on its

front page, featuring songs like James Brown's "Say It Loud—I'm Black and I'm Proud," N.W.A.'s "(Expletive) the Police," Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come" and Childish Gambino's "This Is America."

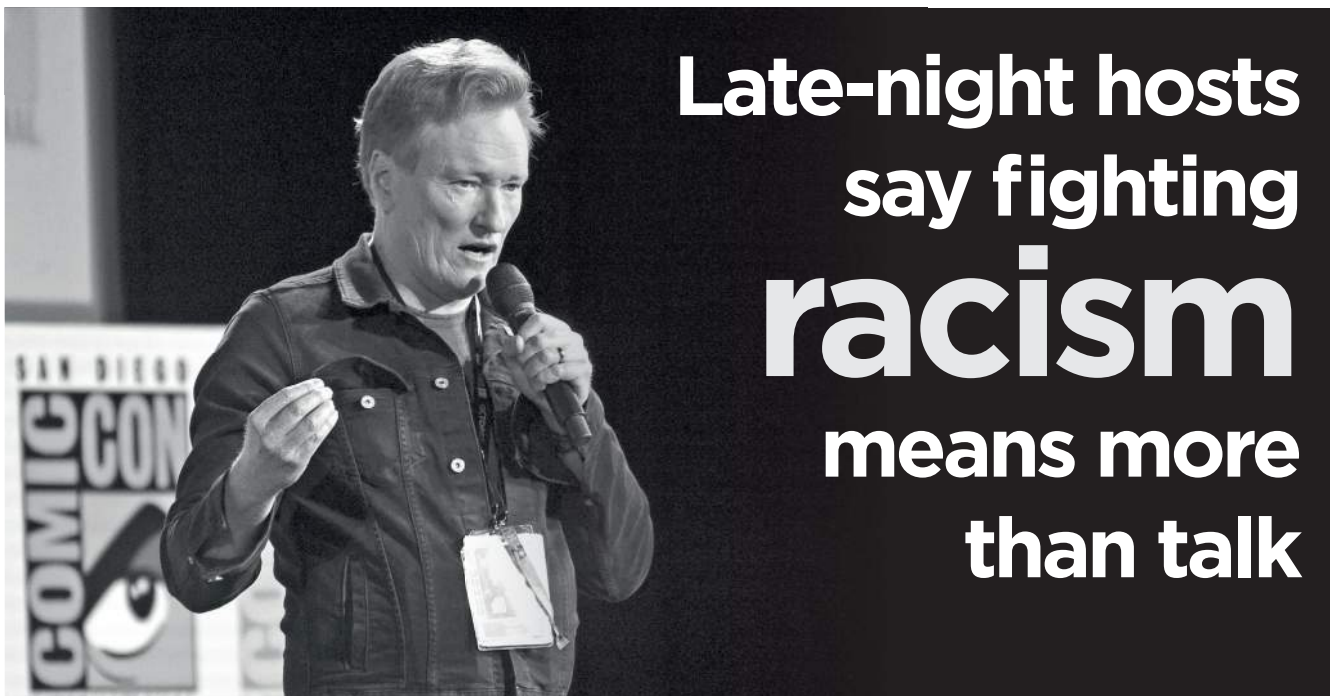
The opening pages of Apple Music and iTunes focused on supporting Black Lives Matter, and SiriusXM said it will be silencing its music channels for three minutes at 3 p.m. EDT in tribute to "all of the countless victims of racism."

The company said it "will continue to amplify Black voices by being a space where Black artists showcase their music and talents, and by carrying the message that racism will not be tolerated."

Some on social media questioned if posting black squares would divert attention away from posts about the Black Lives Matter movement.

"this is the 4th completely different flyer i've seen for it," Grammy-nominated singer Kehlani tweeted about Black Out Tuesday. "this is the only one without the saying go completely silent for a day in solidarity. the messages are mixed across the board and i really hope it doesn't have a negative effect."

When musician Dillon Francis posted that the hashtag for Black Lives Matter was blank on Instagram because users were posting black squares, rapper Lil Nas X responded with: "this is not helping us. bro who the (expletive) thought of this?? ppl need to see what's going on."



In this July 18, 2019, file photo, Conan O'Brien introduces Tom Cruise to present a clip from "Top Gun: Maverick" on day one of Comic-Con International in San Diego. AP

Late-night hosts say fighting racism means more than talk

NEW YORK (AP)—Six of America's late-night television comedy hosts—five of them white men—turned serious after the nation's weekend of unrest following the death of George Floyd to suggest they and others need to do more than talk about racism.

It has become a ritual—a somewhat inexplicable one, as TBS' Conan O'Brien noted—for these comics to come on the air after acts of terrorism, school shootings or other national traumas to try and make sense of them for their audiences. Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into the handcuffed black man's neck for several minutes, even after he stopped moving.

"Today feels very different,"

O'Brien said Monday night. "It doesn't feel right to talk about my feelings of sadness and anger. That truly feels inadequate and somehow wrong."

Instead, O'Brien said it was important to listen to people who have direct experience with "our national crisis," the fact that much of the black community in the United States doesn't feel safe, seen or heard.

He brought on CNN's Van Jones as a guest. That's one thing O'Brien had in common with Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Fallon, James Corden and Seth Meyers: They all invited black guests or, in Corden's case, collaborator Reggie Watts, to talk about the issue after saying their piece.

Trevor Noah of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" brought a different personal experience, having grown up

in South Africa with a white father and black mother. He offered a serious, expansive monologue that touched upon the coronavirus' impact on minorities, the New York woman who recently told police she was being threatened by an African American man in Central Park, and George Floyd.

To feel threatened by law enforcement feels to many blacks like they're being held to a standard that some responsible for enforcing laws don't adhere to themselves, he said. Noah said he understands the mentality that leads to looting when many whites can't.

"Try to imagine how it feels to be a black person when they watch themselves be looted every day," Noah said, "because that's what's happening in America. Police in America are looting black bodies."

NBC's Fallon, like all of the hosts speaking from home because of COVID-19 restrictions, noted how the Floyd story coincided with his own personal issues.

Fallon recently apologized after stories emerged about how he appeared in blackface to impersonate Chris Rock in a 2000 "Saturday Night Live" skit. He said he was advised to keep quiet when people talked about him online, but he realized he had to talk about it.

"What that small gesture did for me was break my own silence," the "Tonight" show host said. "Staying silent was the biggest crime that people like me can do."

"We need to start saying 'it not OK,' more than just one day on Twitter," said Fallon, who later spoke on the air with NAACP President Derrick Johnson.

Woman runs low on patience for friend's drama-filled life

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Kate" has had a lot of trauma in her life, and she feels things very deeply. She has experienced assault, the suicide of a close friend, the death of several family members, discovered she can't have children, and managed to escape an abusive relationship, all in the last five years or so.

Kate does all the things people are supposed to do when coping with grief and is doing very well. The problem is me. I find it hard to be around her because of all the drama. Intellectually, I understand none of this is Kate's fault. She isn't being attention-seeking or deliberately causing drama. But I find myself becoming impatient with her ongoing discussion of feelings. I'm not someone who feels deeply or is easily traumatized. Bad things happen, I get over it and move on. How can I learn to be the patient, caring friend she needs?

TRYING TO BE A BETTER FRIEND

DEAR TRYING: Quit being so hard on yourself. You are and have been a good friend. It's important that you not allow Kate's burdens to "sink" you. The two of you are very different people, and you should explain that to her as you have to me. If her trauma and drama become more than you can healthfully absorb, step back and tell her you will talk with her later, tomorrow or when it is convenient for you both, which will allow you time to come up for air.

DEAR ABBY: I am self-quarantined for a number of reasons

because of the virus. I am 87 and live alone. My daughter is very concerned that I not become ill because her husband is in treatment for cancer. Obviously, she doesn't want to have to come care for me and endanger her husband's already reduced immunity.

A friend called to ask how I am doing. I told her I was self-quarantined, and she asked if I needed anything. I told her I didn't have eggs, but it was no big deal. She said she would bring me some. I sent her a text and asked her to leave them on the porch, and she said, "You mean you won't let me in the house?" She said she isn't sick and can't understand why I'm doing this. I tried to explain that you can be contagious without symptoms, but she was still insulted.

I thought everyone in the world knew the basics of quarantine, but apparently she's still taking it personally. She hasn't called for three days, and I'm heartsick. Advice?

SHUT IN IN ARIZONA

DEAR SHUT IN: In spite of the fact that the federal, state and local governments are releasing information on a daily basis about the importance of social distancing and self-quarantining, there is still confusion in the minds of some of the public. Your friend is a perfect example of this. You are doing what you're doing for the right reason, and I hope you will continue, not only for your son-in-law's sake, but also for your own.

DEAR ABBY: I've been married five years, and I just dis-

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



covered that my husband still has several text messages from his late wife. He thinks I shouldn't be upset about it. Am I wrong for asking him to delete them?

FEELING BETRAYED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR FEELING BETRAYED: Yes, you are! Do not compete with a deceased spouse. Hanging on to mementoes is a way many people grieve. If the texts hold significance for him, let him have them. You're his wife now, and that's what matters.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 USMC ranks
5 IRS employee
8 Dross
12 Franc replacer
13 Sound of delight
14 Lawman Wyatt
15 Asia's — Sea
16 Zodiac cat
17 Author Ferber
18 Elvis' birthplace
20 Emphatic agreement
22 Pas' mates
23 Prof's helpers
24 Rhet's last word
27 Scarecrow
32 Lab eggs
33 Onassis nickname
34 Docs' bloc

DOWN

35 Guitar's kin
38 Handle
39 Coach Par-seghian
40 Wilde-beest
42 Ignite
45 "Who cares?"
49 Ship's staff
50 Sub-machine gun
52 Highly-rated
53 Mellows
54 Went first
55 Press
56 Optimistic
57 Author Harper

35 Catches some rays
11 Transcript stats
19 "— Bohème"
21 JFK info
24 Comic DeLuise
25 Actress Gardner
26 Aquatic mammals
28 Part of TNT
29 Best seats at a boxing match
30 I love (Lat.)
31 Apprehend
36 Nodding off
37 Klutz
38 Persian Gulf land
41 Rejection
42 Cicatrix
43 Thus
44 Sated
46 Circle dance
47 Unsigned (Abbr.)
48 Sawbucks
51 Wye follower

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 6-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bar Refaeli, 35; Russell Brand, 45; Angelina Jolie, 45; Noah Wyle, 49.

Happy Birthday: Explore the possibilities, and plan to learn something. Update in order to keep up with the changing times. How you prepare for the future will make a difference to your peace of mind. Knowing what you want and striving to reach your goal will lead to greater satisfaction than you anticipate. Discipline will lead to perfection. Your numbers are 7, 12, 24, 32, 34, 41, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get personal documents in order. Take care of investments and finances, and refuse to let your emotions get the better of you. A practical approach to whatever you have to accomplish will bring the best results. Self-improvement is favored. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Nurture a meaningful relationship, and avoid an argument. A positive change you make regarding domestic matters will give you something to look forward to and enjoy with loved ones. An unexpected job opening will give you a chance to get ahead. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Physical encounters will not turn out as hoped. Protect against being used or giving someone the chance to make you look bad. Guard your reputation, and focus on looking your best. Getting a makeover, pampering yourself or starting a fitness routine will help build your confidence. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Set high standards. Use your imagination and be innovative. You will come up with ways

to use your skills to benefit yourself and others. A partnership looks promising, but don't move too quickly. Savor the moment. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stop, look, listen and assess your situation. Time is on your side, and focusing on your skills and what you have to offer will help you realize your value. If you are too accommodating, someone will take advantage of your generosity. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use intelligence to deal with people who are nosy or meddling. Knowledge and preparation will be key when it comes time to excel. Broaden your scope, pay attention to what's going on around you and use insight to outmaneuver the competition. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A steady pace will get you where you want to go and help you ward off anyone who wants to interfere in your affairs. Focus on personal growth and making it clear what you will not put up with. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let uncertainty set in or cause you to miss out on something you want to do. Head in the direction that will bring you the highest return. A change of heart will help you direct your energy where it belongs. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will flare up if you let someone take advantage of you or cause trouble between you and someone you love. Take a step back to reevaluate your situation and where you see yourself heading. Do what's best for you. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider what you want, and make the necessary adjustments. Start by putting your house in order. Make domestic changes that bring you happiness and peace of mind. Past challenges will spare you from making the same mistake twice. ★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let uncertainty cost you. Focus on personal gains, growth and living life your way. A change of scenery will spark your imagination. Turn your space into a serene environment that will clear your head and ease stress. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't lose sight of your objective. If you want to help a cause, be sure you don't let someone trick you into something you cannot afford financially, emotionally or where your time is concerned. Be smart and effective. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are fetching, energetic and demonstrative. You are possessive and creative.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		2				8	5			
		4								
5	9				6				1	
				8	4	9				
			6		1					
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7			5					6	8	
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	4	3				2				

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/04

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	9	6	4	1	2	8	3
2	6	8	3	5	9	4	1	7
1	3	4	2	7	8	9	5	6
9	4	7	1	8	5	6	3	2
6	1	3	7	9	2	5	4	8
5	8	2	4	6	3	7	9	1
3	7	1	9	2	4	8	6	5
4	2	5	8	3	6	1	7	9
8	9	6	5	1	7	3	2	4

Big Tally Level ★★★

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Martinez hopes MLB owners, players compromise



BOSTON—The NHL has announced a return-to-play strategy. The NBA could announce its plan as soon as Thursday after a Board of Governors vote.

And then there's Major League Baseball.

MLB's first proposal was quickly shot down by the Players' Association, which submitted its own plan over the weekend. That's also expected to be immediately dismissed. And as the days tick by, the hopes for a 2020 season get dimmer. While there's still time to salvage a season, the lack of productive dialogue between the league and the MLBPA is getting discouraging.

Speaking on NBC Sports Network's "Lunch Talk Live" on Monday afternoon, Pedro Martinez voiced his frustration with the stalemate.

"I'm hoping that both sides actually stop thinking about their own good and start thinking about the fans," Martinez said. "I think this is a perfect time to have their baseball teams out there and try to have the people forget a little bit about what's going on. It's not only the pandemic, it's everything that's going on. People need something to actually do and find a way to relax. I hope that the Players' Association and MLB realize how important it is to bring some sort of relief to people."

Martinez is spot-on with the sentiment that sports returning would be a welcome respite from the news right now. But getting players back on the field is proving to be complicated, especially as the sides navigate the financials of a shorter season without revenue from tickets.

"The economics is the dark part of baseball. The business part of baseball is dirty. It's dark," Martinez said.

"And I hope that they take into consideration who pays our salaries, what the people do for us, how important the people are, and forget about or at least bend your arm a little bit to find a middle ground for the negotiations."

"Let's not be selfish about it. Let's think about the fans, let's think about the families that are home that want to at least watch a baseball game and distract themselves from all the things that are going on," he added.

Ongoing disputes over money are reflecting horribly on the sport, and cancelling the entire 2020 season could do irreparable harm to a sport that has seen its popularity ebb in recent years.

Fans can only hope that the sides take Pedro's advice, and find some common ground—and do it quickly.

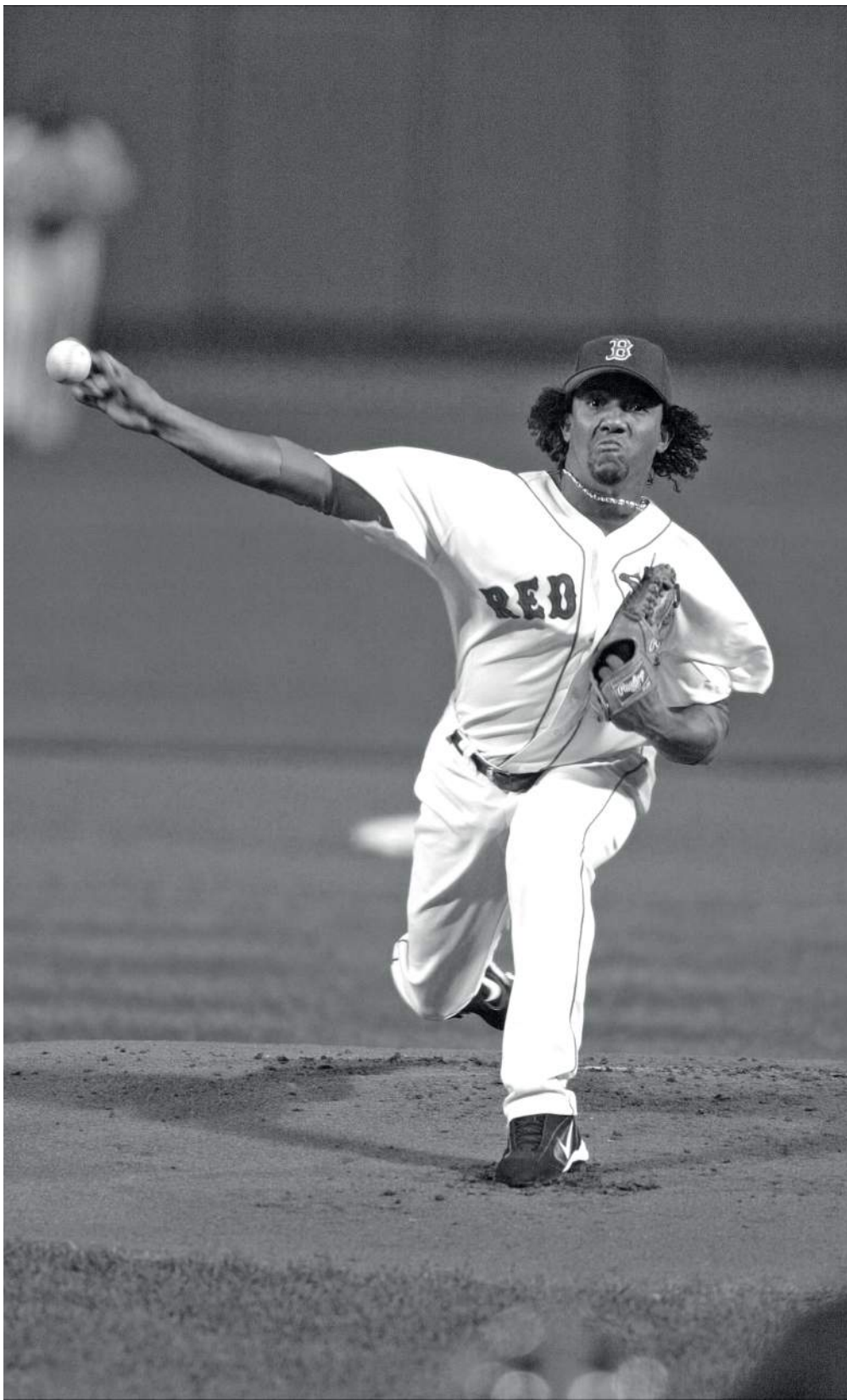
Money loss in shutdown

With the Major League Baseball season still in limbo, the owner of the Chicago Cubs is going on the offensive against the idea that his peers across the league are just sitting on piles of money.

Tom Ricketts, whose family owns the Chicago Cubs, told ESPN's Jesse Rogers on Tuesday that most people have it all wrong, the league itself doesn't have a lot of fluid cash and—here's the money quote—"the scale of losses across the league is biblical."

This comes at a time when league owners and players struggle to find middle ground on a financial plan that would allow them to restart the season. Owners want to pay players a fraction of what their already-agreed-upon prorated salaries would be for a 2020 season. Players think the March agreement for prorated salaries is the start and end of the conversation when it comes to pay.

Most recently, the league is



In this undated file photo, Pedro Martinez pitches for the Red Sox in an MLB game in Boston.

AP

reportedly willing to impose a shortened season of around 50 games at the prorated amounts, but that seems more

like a nuclear option if the league and players can't come to an agreement.

While the billionaire vs.

millionaires fight may be a turn off to the more casual fan, Ricketts is claiming that the billionaire owners aren't

as flush with cash as you'd think. Major League Baseball revenues were \$10.7 billion last season (another record high), according to Forbes, but Ricketts claims that isn't what it seems.

"Here's something I hope baseball fans understand," Ricketts told ESPN. "Most baseball owners don't take money out of their team. They raise all the revenue they can from tickets and media rights, and they take out their expenses, and they give all the money left to their GM to spend."

"The league itself does not make a lot of cash. I think there is a perception that we hoard cash and we take money out and it's all sitting in a pile we've collected over the years. Well, it isn't. Because no one anticipated a pandemic. No one expects to have to draw down on the reserves from the past. Every team has to figure out a way to plug the hole."

As players and owners clash on what it will take to restart the game, one of the comments from players has been that owners should open their books to give the players' union a clearer vision of just how much money players generate for their teams. The odds of that happening are about as likely as players accepting a salary cap in the next round of collective bargaining.

Still, Ricketts maintains teams may need to sell some of their equity to recover from the shutdown.

"The scale of losses across the league is biblical," Ricketts said. "The timing of the work stoppage, the inability to play was right before the season started. We're looking at 30 teams with zero revenue. To cover the losses, all teams have gone out and borrowed. There's no other way to do it in the short run. In the long run, we may be able to sell equity to cover some of our losses but that's in the long run." (NBC/AP)

MIAMI (AP)—Players from several Major League Soccer teams skipped voluntary workouts Monday after the league and the players' association hit an impasse on an agreement that would clear the way for a tournament this summer in Florida.

A person with knowledge of the negotiations said the talks between the two sides were ongoing and a deadline has been pushed to Wednesday. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the negotiations were not being made public.

The Major League Soccer Players Association had voted to approve economic concessions for this season, including

Players skip training after union impasse with MLS

across-the-board salary cuts. The proposal, made public by the union Sunday night, was sent back to the league for approval by team owners.

"While a difficult vote in incredibly challenging times, it was taken collectively to ensure that players can return to competition as soon as they are safely able to do so," the union said in a statement.

The season was suspended March 12 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Teams had played just two games.

The league gave its teams the go-ahead last week to begin small voluntary group training sessions outdoors.

They must follow a strict protocol, as well as local public health and government restrictions. Not all the teams have returned to training.

On Monday, players from a number of teams including Atlanta United, Inter Miami, Vancouver Whitecaps and Minnesota United did not report to voluntary training.

"Players made a CHOICE to focus their time and energy on an important decision which includes the threat of a lockout instead of volunteering to attend on-field training for a tournament we already agreed to

attend. Refuse is not the word I would use," Minnesota midfielder Ethan Finlay posted on social media. Finlay is on the executive board of the players' union.

Details of the Florida tournament were still under consideration but the league's 26 teams and limited staff would be sheltered at hotels with games played without fans at ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World.

In addition to salary cuts, the union's proposal includes reduced team and individual bonuses, as well as concessions to the existing and future terms

of the collective bargaining agreement. Details were not immediately available.

MLS did not comment on the proposal.

MLS first announced last month it was exploring possible "changes to player compensation" because of the financial hit the league and teams were facing with the extended suspension in play. The sides have since gone back and forth.

"We are seeking to work collaboratively with the MLSPA to find a solution that provides a safety net for all players, opportunity to earn full salary in the scenario where all matches are played with fans, and in

particular provides protection for the players at the lower end of the salary scale," the league said in a statement at the time.

MLS and the players' union agreed to terms of a new contract in early February, but it had not been ratified when the season was put on hold.

Meanwhile, the National Women's Soccer League has set the schedule for the opening round of its tournament starting later this month in Utah, with the Portland Thorns playing the defending champion North Carolina Courage on the opening day.

The tournament will be held in the Salt Lake City area starting June 27 with no fans in attendance.



NFL teams must hold training camps at home



NEW YORK
(AP)—All 32 NFL teams have been told by Commissioner

Roger Goodell to hold training camps at their home facilities this summer because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most NFL teams stay at their training complexes year-round, but Dallas, Pittsburgh, Kansas City and Buffalo are among those that stage training camp elsewhere.

The Cowboys and Steelers are scheduled for the Hall of Fame game in Canton, Ohio, on Aug. 6 and will be the first two teams to report in late July. Dallas usually trains in Oxnard, California, and Pittsburgh in nearby Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

The league has canceled all in-person workouts at team facilities, which only in the past two weeks have begun opening on a limited basis. No coaches nor players other than those undergoing medical treatment and rehabilitation have been allowed in those facilities.

Soon, the NFL is hopeful of having club complexes fully open, but under strict medical guidelines including social distancing protocols.

One team in something of a limbo: the Raiders. Their move to Las Vegas has been complicated by the pandemic, of course. They had been working out of their Oakland-area complex in Alameda, and had been planning to hold training camp as usual in Napa, about one hour north of the Bay Area. But they could decide to move it to their new facility in Henderson, Nevada.

Broncos stop football talk

Instead of X's and O's, the



In this Nov. 20, 2019 file photo, Dallas Cowboys' Dak Prescott (4) signals at the line of scrimmage during an NFL game against the Baltimore Ravens in Arlington, Texas.

Denver Broncos spent Tuesday talking about racial injustice, police brutality and healing a nation rocked by demonstrations over George Floyd's death in Minneapolis on top of the coronavirus outbreak and its economic devastation.

Team president Joe Ellis addressed the offense and defense in separate Zoom calls that replaced the team's regular video conference sessions, which are a substitute for in-person training during the pandemic.

Coach Vic Fangio and general manager John Elway also participated in the calls in

which Ellis emphasized society's need to eradicate racism and told the players that the organization shares in the outrage over Floyd's death at the hands of police.

Ellis, who told players he wanted to hear from them before issuing a statement, also listened as more than a dozen players spoke up on the calls.

"My takeaway from it was that we have to figure out what we can do, not only as a team, but as an organization," safety Kareem Jackson said. "How can we get out and how can we impact the Denver com-

munity? Maybe we can get out and put together a march as a team or something like that."

After the Zoom calls, the Broncos tweeted, "We will stand by our players. We will lift up their voices. We can do more. We will do more."

The team also retweeted several players' personal posts, including Malik Reed's: "I have been one of the ones to not be outspoken about the things we go through, but that doesn't help create change. My heart goes out to everyone who has lost someone due to the wickedness of this world."

Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis officer, Derek Chauvin, pressed his knee on the handcuffed black man's neck for several minutes. He was fired along with three other officers and faces homicide charges.

Fangio started off a media call a few hours later by saying, "I was shocked, sad and angry at what I saw a policeman do to a handcuffed George Floyd ... He should be punished to fullest extent of the law for the crimes he has been charged with in addition to being charged with treason for fail-

ing to uphold the badge."

Fangio said he has the utmost respect for police but added that Chauvin "failed the 99 percent of police that do a great job and we are all paying the price for that."

Denver is among the dozens of cities where peaceful protests during daylight hours have been followed by looting and clashes with police come nightfall.

Fangio said society could learn a lot from an NFL locker room, where skin color is no barrier.

Fangio said the words of Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Broncos safety Justin Simmons especially resonated with him over a weekend of increasing unrest and said that sports brings people together "and I look forward to the Broncos and the NFL leading that charge."

Simmons, the team's 2019 Walter Payton Man of the Year nominee, helped lead a peaceful protest in Florida on Sunday. He called for unity and non-violence.

Simmons implored a crowd to "understand that we are fighting for equality, not superiority. All lives matter when black lives matter. We pledge our allegiance to the flag for freedom and justice for all and we do not have our justice. So let's understand that. We will get it, (but) not by force."

Fangio also praised Simmons, saying, "I think Justin is one of those guys that will help us find solutions and lead us out of this mess that we're in."



LOS ANGELES—Could the PGA Tour be creating a temporary feeder tour?

That's the plan, according to an email that was sent by the Tour to members of its international tours—the Mackenzie Tour, PGA Tour Latinoamerica and PGA Tour China—gauging interest in a potential U.S.-based replacement tour that would help make up for playing opportunities lost because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The proposed idea, per the email calls for approximately six 54-hole tournaments, each with 36-hole cuts, to be played from August to mid-October. The goal is for two to three consecutive tournaments to be played in the same region. Members of those three afore-

PGA gauging interest in feeder tour

mentioned tours would have first priority to enter.

The email also states that the "hope" is to have \$100,000 purses for each event.

"This idea is very much in the exploratory phase, but we are trying to assess player interest before further developing a plan, contacting potential venues and trying to secure the appropriate sponsorship monies to help run the events," the email read.

Mackenzie Tour cancels remainder of season amid coronavirus pandemic

Players were asked to fill out an anonymous survey by June 8 that included questions about preferred tournament locations and number of events they would play.

The potential host regions: Carolinas/Georgia, North Florida, South Florida, Northeast Texas and Arizona.

Pathway for NCAA players

Meanwhile, the PGA Tour now has a dedicated path for student-athletes from the NCAA, with an emphasis on students.

The tour's policy board in March approved the plan rolled out this week. It's called PGA Tour University, and it's designed for the top NCAA Division I players to have access to either the Korn Ferry Tour or the satellite tours in Canada, Latin America and China once school is out.

Eligible players, however,

have to complete at least four years in college.

Over time, this likely won't apply to the elite in college golf, who usually don't make it past their sophomore year (Tiger Woods, Justin Thomas, Matthew Wolff) and are good enough to get sponsor exemptions and can head to qualifying options at the end of the season.

But the timing for it given the COVID-19 pandemic couldn't be better.

Golf has such a short season from being shut down the last three months that the Korn Ferry Tour will not send the top 25 players to the big leagues until 2021, and there will be no qualifying tournaments at the end of 2020.

Several college players who contemplated turning pro are going back to school, even seniors who have been granted an additional year of eligibility by the NCAA because of the pandemic.

"By focusing our efforts on players who have completed a minimum of four years, PGA Tour University will not deter from the college game while ensuring its graduates benefit from their maturity and experience," Commissioner Jay Monahan said in a statement.

The Top 15 finishers from the final PGA Tour University ranking list after the college season will get status. The leading five players will be exempt to open, full-field Korn Ferry Tour events until its

postseason (typically seven or eight tournaments). They also will be exempt into the final stage of Q-school for the Korn Ferry Tour. The next 10 will have status in Canada, Latin America or China, along with being exempt into the second stage of Q-school.

The ranking list will lean on the World Amateur Golf Ranking, and only the last two years of a player's college career will count (college tournaments and PGA Tour events, including the three majors for amateurs). However, players won't show up on the ranking until their fourth year begins. They face a minimum of nine events in their final year, including the NCAA regionals.

The first ranking list is expected to be published this summer leading into the next college season.

Opinion: NBA faces tough decisions on resuming season

NEW YORK—The words not only captured the brutal honesty from an NBA superstar. They also reflected what other players might feel about resuming the NBA season.

"If we come back and they're just like, 'We're adding a few games to finish the regular season,' and they're throwing us out there for meaningless games and we don't have a true opportunity to get into the playoffs," Portland's Damian Lillard said. "I'm going to be with my team because I'm a part of the team. But I'm not going to be participating."

That sentiment captures the challenge the NBA faces in figuring out the perfect format to resume the season. It must weigh safety concerns after suspend-

ing operations over two months ago because of the novel coronavirus pandemic. It must also calculate the best format to give teams the fairest shot to win an NBA championship.

Should the NBA resume the regular season, the league could recoup some of the financial losses it has suffered by broadcasting those games on ABC and ESPN. But that approach could also expose bad basketball, forcing non-contending teams to play through both rustiness and apathy.

"If we can come back and play, that's a positive for our young guys," one NBA executive on a non-contending team said. The executive spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the topic. "Our guys want to play. They're trying to make a mark



AP
In this March 6, 2020 file photo, Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, front left, runs out of room as Phoenix Suns forward Mikal Bridges, right, and Suns center Aron Baynes, back left, defend during the second half of an NBA game in Phoenix.

TENNIS

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away from the mainland, Saipan residents rallied behind the cause calling for justice for Floyd and joining the fight against racism.

With the civil unrest continuing in the aftermath of Floyd's death, Trump last Monday (Tuesday on Saipan), said he was "mobilizing all available federal resources, civilian and military, to stop the rioting and looting, end the destruction and arson, and to protect the rights of law-abiding Americans, including your Second Amendment rights."

Race called the president's words and actions "not those of an elected official, but of a dictator."

"He ordered the U.S. military to attack its own citizens who were peaceably assem-

bling as is their rights under the First Amendment of the Constitution. Why? So that he could look tough and walk to a church where he was unwelcome for a photo-op while holding a bible that he neither reads nor believes in. I hope that all our fellow Americans go and find a safe way to vote in November, and I really hope that Trump is not the first president in U.S. history to violate this country's almost 250-year tradition of a peaceful transfer of power. Unfortunately I have zero confidence that that will be the case," the CNMI Sports Hall of Famer said.

San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, Steve Kerr, and several NBA players had earlier criticized Trump, while players in the German and English soccer leagues have shown support to the Black Lives Matter campaign. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*

in the league. To some extent, they're also bored and want to get out of the house. But my concern is if they don't have a season, how do we get our guys motivated?"

Should the NBA jump straight to the playoffs, the league could bring immediate excitement and meaning to a restless fanbase that has not seen a live professional basketball game since March 11. But that could also leave playoff-bubble teams feeling left out, including the Trail Blazers (29-37), New Orleans Pelicans (28-36) and Sacramento Kings (28-36).

If the NBA adopts a play-in tournament to settle the bottom of the playoff standings, it could placate teams that are narrowly out of the postseason picture.

But that may frustrate others that did not have as much of a chance to recapture rhythm and chemistry as they would during a normal regular season.

"If they come back and say it's something like a tournament, play-in style, between the No. 7 and No. 12 seeds, if we're playing for playoff spots, then I think that's perfect," Lillard said.

The NBA will soon find out what other players and executives think. The league has yet to see final results of a survey it sent to general managers last Friday, according to one person familiar with the results who spoke on condition of anonymity, because the person was not authorized to publicly discuss the topic. When the NBA hosts a Board of Gov-

ernors meeting Friday, the person said the league plans "to present a few options" and "get the format figured out as quickly as we can."

It is possible the NBA may need more follow-up meetings to iron out various logistics, yet the league is aware it needs to act quickly in order to resume its season in late July.

The NBA is exploring a plan to have all games take place at ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando.

But even if that gets settled, plenty of questions remain to ensure a fair and safe return.

Would it be in the league's interest to allow NBA lottery-bound teams to skip the season to minimize travel and the number of teams in the bubble? Or would that eliminate too many games that would significantly affect the league's revenue and future salary cap?

Would it be in the league's interest to introduce a play-in tournament both to entice better competition and to test a new model for future seasons? Or would that only complicate adjustments with resuming the season at a bubble site without fans? *(USA Today)*

JR

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Casey Chambers and Matty Angeles are among the players in the pool and welcomed the resumption of their training sessions.

"They are helping us get ready for the next soccer season. I joined the academy because I want to become a better player," Chambers said.

Matty echoed Chamber's thoughts, saying that the academy gives them an opportunity to play better and improve their skills.

"We learn a lot of techniques and at this time when we can't go out to play and train, we can use these online sessions to stay in shape and exercise," the young player added.

Meanwhile, when sports federations are cleared to return to their regular activities, Jerish Angeles wishes JNA players will be able to play in a series of games in Guam.

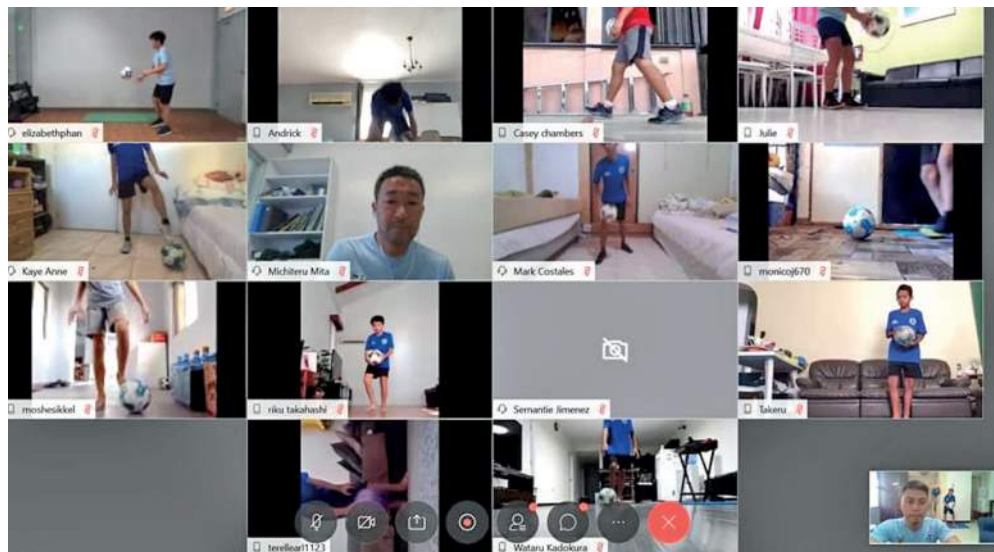


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Takeru Jim, seen here taking a shot during a competition at the TSL Sports Complex, is training at the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Junior National Academy.

"We planned before to bring the JNA players to Guam to

have friendly matches with GFA's academy and local



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A screen grab of the Junior National Academy's online training session last Monday shows coaches giving out instructions and players performing the drills.

clubs. Hopefully we could do this when everything is back to normal," Angeles said.

Meanwhile, NMIFA technical director Michiteru, who is also helping JNA in its online workout, and Angeles are still

holding virtual training sessions for the men's national squad and the boys U15 and U17 national team pools to keep them in shape and ready for off-island tournaments in the future. The men's squad is scheduled to

participate in the East Asian Football Federation E-1 Football Championship 2021 Round 1, which is set between July and September, but has been suspended and new dates have yet to be announced.



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hopes MLB
owners, players
compromise

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jr. National Academy training resumes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Junior National Academy is back in action after holding an online training session last Monday.



The academy is one of NMIFA's grassroots programs and it aims at preparing young players for higher-level competitions and national team training system.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players in the Junior National Academy pose for a photo before their training session at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville early this year.

Tennis coach hits Trump's action on civil unrest

Veteran CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race joined the growing list of athletes and sports officials criticizing United States President Donald Trump's actions against the civil unrest happening in the mainland.

"In this moment when so many people are incensed by the murder of George Floyd and a long string of such killings in America by police, Donald Trump is continuing the politics of division that he has chosen throughout his term in office," said Race, who was at the Atkins Kroll-San Jose intersection yesterday to raise his concerns over the U.S. president's policies, while a group of people supporting the Black Lives Matter campaign in the wake of the killing of Floyd was having a peaceful protest, too.

Floyd died on May 25 after fired Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for several minutes while he was handcuffed on the ground. The tragedy has sparked protests and violence throughout the U.S., while though miles



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race protests U.S. President Donald Trump's action on the civil unrest in the mainland.

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"They are the future of our national team," JNA head coach Jerish Angeles said.

The program's mentor said that their first class since soccer-related activities were suspended mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic ran from 4pm to 5pm. The 19-player pool that is made up of players in the 10 to 12 age group performed drills focusing on dynamic stretching, ball feeling, core exercises, and cooling down.

Angeles added that their first session had a good turnout. However, it was evident that the JNA players were a bit rusty because it's been more than two months since they last trained.

"I observed last Monday that most of them didn't touch the ball and didn't have any exercise since we stopped the training. We want to resume the JNA training even through online so that our players can gradually get back their fitness and start touching the ball again," Angeles said.

Before the suspension of JNA's training sessions, the pool used to hold classes every Friday at the TSL Sports Complex. Players also utilized the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville so they can switch to drills that need bigger space and have 8v8 scrimmage.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Matty Angeles, seen here working with the ball during a soccer event at the TSL Sports Complex, is in the 19-player pool training under the Junior National Academy.